

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXVI

JANUARY 1998

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MEDITATION

And now, my soul, another year,
Of thy short life is past;
I cannot long continue here,
And this may be my last.

Much of my hasty life is gone,
Nor will return again;
And swift my passing moments run—
The few that yet remain.

Awake, my soul, with utmost care
Thy true condition learn:
What are thy hopes? how sure? how fair?
What is thy great concern?

Behold, another year begins;
Set out afresh for heav'n;
Seek pardon for thy former sins,
In Christ so freely giv'n.

Devoutly yield thyself to God,
And on his grace depend;
With zeal pursue the heav'nly road,
Nor doubt a happy end.

GOD WITH US

Please read Psalms 46.

The Psalmist gives us much to think about as we enter a new year. Although his message is not specifically a new year's meditation, there is much there to help prepare our hearts for another year of serving God. He helps us to know God a little better. By knowing Him better we will be able to serve Him better.

The new year before us is a little like a strange mansion we have been invited to visit. We are used to our home, which is comfortable if not pretentious. The mansion is different. The new year looms ahead of us as something strange. We do not know what it will bring. It may bring us heartaches, sorrows, prosperity, joy or any other similar events. As we prepare to enter the year, it is as if we were at the front door of the strange mansion. That door looks ominous. We may have some fears about entering through that door. But being invited, we will go through the door. Our apprehensions may be fulfilled or disproved. We do not know until we have actually gone through the door.

It is a great help to us when entering a strange place to have a guide, who can help us avoid the pitfalls that may be found there. A mansion is a place of many rooms, hallways and maybe some secret passages. We could become lost or wander aimlessly without someone to guide us. The new year can also become a time of aimlessness. Groping our way through a mansion can be difficult

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and frustrating, but it is not nearly as dangerous as groping our way from one year to the next. Our aimless wandering through a mansion will only last a little while. It is not likely that our experience will greatly affect our future. To wander aimlessly, without an experienced guide, through the years of our lives will have eternal consequences. These consequences are so great that we must seek the best guide who can be found. The Psalmist recommends such a guide to us.

There very well may be various disasters, personal, regional, or national to face in the new year. In the midst of these disasters it is good to have a refuge. Although we may not be able to avoid these storms, we can have God as our refuge. He is not far away. With that help so near, we do not need to fear the situations that may arise. Our storms may be physical disasters, fire, flood, bitter cold, terrific heat, hurricane, tornado or earthquake. They may be personal, physical or mental suffering. They may be sorrows or heartaches. Whatever they may be, God is the One who can help us overcome the hurt of each one.

God is not only our defender, but also the provider of our blessings. He provides many material and temporal blessings throughout life. We have health, strength, and the right use of body and mind. He has provided many Spiritual blessings for us. As He provides the streams to water the earth and make it productive, so He provides these blessings to us that we might be productive members of His family. He provides protection for His people when in danger from the people surrounding them. He is a very present source of help. He is available when needed. Unlike the promises of men or governments, the promises of God are worthy of our trust. We can act upon what He has promised us. We can know that whatever situation we find ourselves in that He is there as our help. He is worthy of our confidence.

The mighty acts of God are seen all about us. He has accomplished many wonderful things. His hand can be seen in scenes of destruction. He is known because no other could produce such mighty acts of power. His deeds are not just those that cause wonder because of their destructive effect. He can work in other powerful ways. He can bring peace where warfare has been common.

When God rules the hearts and minds of men, peace among men will be found. There will be no need for weapons of destruction when men have the Spirit of God within them. Men can produce great weapons of warfare, but seldom can he control them. God can bring all these weapons to naught as He moves upon the hearts and lives of men.

The Psalmist would counsel us to be still and to know God. We need to be still in two different senses of the word. We need to be quiet so we can hear Him. If we are so noisy that we can not hear Him, we can hardly benefit by His counsel. We also need to be still in our activities. We need to stop what we are doing and just listen to Him as He speaks to us. We can become so busy, even with the good deeds of life, that we do hear Him speak to us. We need a quiet time with Him. It needs to be a quiet time physically and emotionally.

Are you prepared for the new year? Can you enter the door of that mansion, knowing you have a Guide who will lead you through all that is within?

M.C.Cook

THE BRIDEGROOM IS SOON TO COME

As we observe the times we are made to know we are drawing near to the Rapture of the faithful in Jesus. Matt. 25 tells a story about this event. It is great for those who are taken and very sad for those who are left behind.

We notice fifty percent of those were called foolish. They were the ones who had not the oil of the Spirit. All were virgins. All were expecting the Bridegroom to come. Only the wise were taken. They were all fundamental Christians, but some were left behind to go through the Great Tribulation. This will be a time of trouble and martyrdom like has never been, or will be, Matt. 24:21-22.

The necessity of having a clean mind, a pure heart, and a right spirit can not be over emphasized. We are now referring to the ten who are waiting for the coming Bridegroom. These thoughts concerning the ten virgins behoove every Christian to search his own

heart by the Bible record and with the aid of God's Holy Spirit. It must be with a mind like David's, who said, "Search my heart, see if there be any evil in me." This will be a personal matter with God, not what our image appears to be.

Confessions may be necessary to our fellow man. This is very embarrassing. Confession, repentance, and a vow to live a different life are the only way to be free of sin. These things are our cross which we must bear to Jesus. He will lift our crosses. These are the crosses we must bear alone. The Christian's cross is not ours, to that we are dead.

Our cross is what we find when we sincerely search our personal lives. Many times these are the things that only God and you know about. These are things like meekness, hungering after righteousness, merciful, pure heart, peacemaker, love for Christ and others, burden for lost souls, and much more. These are things that must be dealt with in every Christian's life, in order to have Christian growth.

Many times it requires confessions that are humbling. That is the cross we must bear. Bearing our cross requires a cost. It is in our closets where we meet with God, and ask Him to equip us for the battles of life. Lord I must have the Faith, and determination to pay the cost, Luke 12:36-40. It may be embarrassment, humbling, or even death.

Our uncompromising attitude must be, that with Jesus I will win. These are areas where many Christians do not want to be disturbed. Someone has said, "This is where the rubber meets the road."

Man's ways are horizontal, they parallel the earth. God's ways are vertical from Heaven. Many times they block man's way, and that makes a cross. The reaction may determine the wise, or the foolish. Joel 1:14-15.

Love and prayers,
Homer Mellott

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Only when the grape is crushed can it produce juice.

THINGS OLD AND NEW

As we stand at the beginning of the new year, it is easy to say, "Ring out the old, ring in the new." However some things old are worth hanging onto. Not all things new are good.

Psa. 93:2, "Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting." Psa. 44:1, "We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old."

The old landmarks. Deut. 19:14, "Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee to possess it." Prov. 23:10-11, "Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless: For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee."

Lovingkindness, Psa. 25:6. The works of the Lord, Psa. 77:11. Foundations, Psa 102:25-28. Testimonies, Psa. 119:152. Counsels of faithfulness and truth, Isa. 25:1.

Isa. 46:9, "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."

Jer. 6:16, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."

Put off the old man, Rom. 6:6, Eph. 4:22, Col. 3:9. Purge out the old leaven, I Cor. 5:7-8, "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

As we grow old in the flesh we pray as did the Psalmist, Psa. 71:9, "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth." Psa. 71:18, "Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come." Psa. 92:12-15, "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the

house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the Lord is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."

It is said the way to grow old gracefully is to start young.

Now as we put off the old man and carnal nature, we must put on the new man by being born again.

We now have a new covenant, to replace the old. Please read Jer. 31:34 and Heb. 8:6-13. Jesus died that He might be the mediator of the new covenant. Heb. 9:15, "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." Please read Heb. 9:13-28.

His body was broken and His blood was shed to seal the new covenant, and He gave us the ordinance of the bread and cup, that we might have a remembrance, Matt. 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20, I Cor. 11:23-26.

He opened to us a new and living way. Heb. 10:19-23, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

So we become a new man, Eph. 2:15, 4:24, Col. 3:10 and have a new name, Rev. 2:17, 3:12.

We have a new song in our hearts even if we cannot sing well with our voice. Psalms 40:1-3, 96:1, 98:1, 144:9, 149:1 and Rev. 5:9-10.

So let us keep singing and praising Him who makes all things

new. Rev. 21:1-5.

God bless you all.

Brother William Carpenter

SEPARATION

Isa. 52:11, "Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord."

I truly believe that God is speaking to the entire world through the Prophet Isaiah, warning the sinner and ungodly people, to repent of their sins. God requires us to live a pure, holy and righteous life as we bear the vessels of the Lord. I trust that every brother and sister who are living for the Lord will seriously think about what these vessels are.

Matt. 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Therefore this brings separation between one or the other. Eph. 5:11, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." The Lord is telling us to be a separate people from the world.

II Cor. 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." If we truly believe God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and be born again into the family of God, this separates us from the world. The devil likes to make people believe that there is no God. To be separated from God means punishment and destruction from His presence. We believe there will be a final separation.

Matt. 25:32-33, "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on the right hand, but the goats on the left."

I challenge every born again believer to live your best for the Lord, that you might be accepted of Him.

Brother Eldon Mallow

WHAT IS THE QUESTION?

Mark 12:34, "And when Jesus saw that he answered discretely, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question."

Not long ago, while on the way to a meeting, I drove past a billboard on which was printed, "Christ is the Answer." Underneath this message of truth someone of dubious character had scrawled, "What is the question?" The religious world is confounded by questions. Jesus, however, brought the questions to silence. Jesus spoke and taught with authority: the authority of Almighty God.

Whatever the question, Jesus is the Answer. Whatever your problem in life, Jesus has the answer. The Christian Experience is not a set of doctrines, but a person, Jesus Christ. You may try to reform yourself and conform to a set of rules, but this is not salvation. Salvation is exclusively found in Jesus Christ. There is no other way to God.

Moses said to God, as recorded in the book of Exodus, "Shew me thy Glory." We are told that the glory of the Lord is found in Jesus Christ. II Corinthians 3:18 says, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." May God help us to daily search out His riches, and seek His face in all that we do. He will be the answer to all our questions, and by trusting in Him supply all our needs.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 15, 1938

MOVING ON

Zora Montgomery

"How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him."

There are two roads, both leading in opposite directions from

each other. One to eternal life and glory, the other to death and everlasting punishment. If we desire eternal life, we should make sure that we are on the first road. Then we should keep busy following God's directions. We should stand still only long enough to make sure that we do not move ahead of God.

We are on one of the two roads. We are either building up, or, we are tearing down. It is well for us to frequently examine our lives by looking to God's word and see if we are keeping His commandments in the way He commanded us to do. If we really love God, we will want to please Him in every way we can and know how.

"He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him." (John 14:21.) Please turn to your Bible and read the following verses also:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:1-2.)

It is hard for us to move on in the right direction if we are trying to carry along the things of the world. It is too much of a drag on us. We do not have the promise that God will help us when we load ourselves down with these trifling things. We have the promise in I Cor. 10:13 that God will not allow us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear but with the temptation will also make a way to escape. This is when we flee from idolatry and are looking to Jesus as our guide.

In Matt. 12:28-30 we have the great invitation for all that labor and are heavy laden to come to Him, take His yoke upon us and learn of Him, and we shall find rest for our souls, for His yoke is easy and His burden is light. But we must come to Jesus whole heartedly if these promises are to be ours. "And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men." (Col. 4:23.)

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to one and despise the other.

Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matt. 6:24.)

If we are neglecting to do anything we know Jesus would be pleased to have us do, we are simply inviting Satan into our lives. It pleases Satan to have us neglect a few of these things. That is his first step into our lives. By and by, he will have us to neglect more things, but he will not likely want us to neglect all. He will possibly want us to do some things to make it appear that we are serving God. That is one of his ways of deceiving the mass of people.

He plans various ways to get himself worked into the lives of people. To live the Christian life is not easy as some would tell us. "And he said unto them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." (Luke 9:23.) It takes striving. "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many I say unto you, will seek to enter in and shall not be able." (Luke 13:24.)

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27.) Certainly, to keep one's self unspotted from the world, it would be necessary to keep God's commandments. This verse includes that we are to have love and live for those about us. It is one of His commandments that we should love one another.

According to I Kings 18, it seems that in Elijah's time the people were at times serving Baal and at other times they were trying to serve the true God. "And Elijah came to the people and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."

A test was made of calling upon Baal and followed by calling upon the true God. After no answer came from calling upon Baal, and then when the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the sacrifice Elijah had offered to God, and the stones and the water and all about it, the people fell on their faces and said, "The Lord He is God, the Lord He is God."

"Today is God's time to be saved." Will tomorrow be any easier for us? No, by tomorrow Satan will still have more obstacles in our way for us to overcome. NOW is the opportune time. A certain

proverb is, "The road of Bye and Bye leads to the town of Never."

We read in Joshua 24:14 that Joshua told his people to serve the Lord, but he further says in verse 15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the Gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

To what extent would Daniel have succeeded had he not remained steadfast through all opposition and trials? We read in Daniel 6:10 that when Daniel knew that a decree had been signed against him praying to his God, that he went as he did aforesaid and kneeled three times a day, praying to his God. Daniel followed God's directions and not man's. "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38.)

Will you now please read Matt. 7:21-27 and see who it is that shall enter the kingdom of heaven and who it is that work iniquity, and also about the house that was built upon a rock and the one that was built upon the sand. If we have our eyes and ears wide open to the word of God and are following the directions of the Holy Spirit, regardless of people's opinion, we have the right foundation.

One of Jesus' disciples at one time asked Him how they could know the way. "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." (John 14:6.) We read in John 14:12 and a part of verse 13 that Jesus told His disciples, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth." But we cannot expect this Spirit of truth to guide us unless we are willing to do the things we already know to do. The Holy Spirit cannot guide us unless we follow.

My subject is "Moving On." However, there are times when we should be still. There are times when obstacles are in our way to hinder us from going on in the right direction.

Sometimes we may want to go on so fast that these obstacles will hide our view from Jesus. There are times when we are to be

still and look to Jesus, for Him to tell us what to do. We should never want our own way so much that we will try to get ahead of the Lord. We should wait for His guidance. "Be still and know that I am God."

When the children of Israel saw the Egyptians coming after them they began to murmur. "And Moses said to the people, Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today; for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever." (Ex. 14:13.)

When the great army of Ammon and Moab came against Judah, we read in II Chron. 20, that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel and he said, "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you." (verse 17) Please read on and see how, by the people trusting in God, that God fought for them.

We become so fearful at times and forget God and try to go on in our own strength. Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Phil. 4:13.) "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Eph. 2:8.) We should think more of what God has done for His people through all the ages, what He has already done for each one of us, and how He gave His only Son to die on the cross that those who believe on Him might have everlasting life. (See John 3:16.) But how can we believe unless we think and do His commandments?

We may stand at the bus station. We see the buses coming in and going out. One may be headed for San Francisco. One may be for New York. We may desire to go to one of these cities. We believe that the bus will take us there. The driver will also tell us whether or not we are getting on the right bus. But unless we get on and abide by the rules we will not get there.

Simply desiring and saying we believe will not take us where we want to go. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14.)

"How long halt ye between two opinion? If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.

ETERNITY

The dictionary defines, "ETERNITY" as being without beginning or ending. It is always eternally. In a former article I discussed TIME as a wee bit of eternity that has been given to man. I believe it has not been given to man to be able to define how great the eternity of time is and by whom it is controlled. It always has been and always will be. It reminds me of a great continuous circle that never stops, but continues on and on, round and round, never ending, with ELOCHIM the creator of the universe in charge.

When we are born into this world it is for a purpose. I believe the Scriptures bear this statement out that that purpose is to please God. To please Him will mean being able to share His eternal kingdom with Him. If we rebel and disobey His laws we shall also share eternal punishment in the lake of fire and brimstone with Satan and his followers. Our decision in this life will make a lot of difference in what will happen to our immortal being beyond the grave. It behooves us to be very careful in our lives, our faith, our conduct, our influence, our daily Bible study, our appearance, our speech, the company we keep, and our every day acts. Satan is always present to entice with his lustful plans that will most please our carnal natures.

As parents and grandparents and friends we have a great responsibility to set good examples for our family, friends and all people we meet. We should be careful to guard against sinful company. We may be more able to overcome sin than the younger generation, who do not see the fallacy and thus are drawn into sin by our actions. It used to be said that one generation thinks of sin, the next generation talks of sin and the next generation does the sin. Anymore it does not require that many generations to make a sinner. Man seems to be sin doomed.

The Bible says bring up a child in the way which he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. The things we do makes more of an impression on another than what we say. All that we do or say should be as the Bible teaches us to do or say. I believe that with every conception a soul is given that will live on and on, eternally, somewhere. Parents and everyone else concerned with the children have a great responsibility which they should

take seriously. They should study to be approved unto God, so the little souls God has committed to their trust be not committed to the fire and brimstone furnace.

Eternity. What does it mean to us all? I am afraid it is being considered too lightly while we enjoy this life and try to accumulate riches. These riches will be only for this life. They will be burned up with the wicked when Christ comes and turns the earth and the heavens into an inferno of destruction to put an end to all sin.

Narrow is the gate and straight is the way that leads to glory, but wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there be that travel thereon. Matt. 7:13-14. Almost the whole world is hustling and bustling down the wide road that leads to destruction, to the roaring hot lake of fire. The Prophet Isaiah said, in Isa. 5:14-15, that it would be enlarged in order to hold the people that will be going there. If they are burned up and discarded in a little while as some think and teach, there would be no need to enlarge the lake of fire.

If you have been led to believe such teachings you had better study the Bible again while you have opportunity or you are likely to awaken with a big surprise. If my belief is wrong I still have nothing to fear. So be on the safe side and believe that "eternal" and "everlasting" mean just that—nothing more nor less. God's Word will go on forever as written.

With our timewise minds we cannot think of anything without beginning or ending. We will just have to let all wisdom up to the One who has all wisdom and knowledge and understanding, and law which does not change. Great and unbelievable things are in the future for all of us—good and bad. Are we ready to face the future life? ETERNITY?? ETERNITY.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
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A wise woman puts a grain of sugar into every thing she says to a man
and takes a grain of salt with every thing he says to her.

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Ideal Parents

J. H. Moore

We are told of a devout minister who seldom preaches from the pulpit, though called to the ministry many years ago. He raised a large family, and all of his children, though grown, have the utmost confidence in him. They know their father to be an honest, truthful, consistent and pious man. In their meditations they would never dream of calling in question the moral or Christian conduct of their father, for he has lived such a frank and open life before his children that they know him most thoroughly. All through life he has taken his children into his confidence and all parties came to have perfect confidence in each other.

While the man has never been able to impress the people with the thought that he possessed the ability to preach, still he has, under all circumstances, whether at home or abroad, whether in the country or in the city, whether managing his forces on the farm or dealing with the merchants, behaved himself like a pure-minded, consecrated minister of the Gospel. There are scores among his best friends who question his ability to fill the pulpit in a creditable manner, but all concede the fact that the man's life measures up to the very highest standard of the most eloquent, influential and learned in the pulpits of the country. There are thousands who can easily excel him in the pulpit, but there are few, if any, who can excel him in living the Christlife.

As an ideal man for the pulpit he would receive few votes, even in his own congregation, where he is so well known and highly respected, but as a model Christian man he would receive the endorsement of all the people in his community, even those of other persuasions. He lacks in ability as a public expounder of the great truths of the Bible, but in faithfulness he fills the gospel measure to perfection. The man is no scholar; he is not even a gifted thinker, and yet his manner of life is as beautiful and as entertaining as a poem.

His wife is also an aged saint, with moral, religious and motherly attainments second to none. She is held in high esteem alike by her children and neighbors. These two aged people have lived

together as husband and wife more than sixty years. They have had their trials and reserves, but it is said,—and no one who knows them doubts the statement,—that during their married life neither has ever spoken an unkind or hasty word to the other. They have plenty of temper. They are from families noted for the fire and vim in their make-up, yet the love, respect and very high regard they have for one another have enabled them to keep their tempers completely in hand. In this they have acted wisely, not alone for their own good, but for the good of their children.

Not many children, if asked to do so, could truthfully affirm that they never heard either of their parents utter an unkind or hasty word to the other. Thrice blessed are the sons and daughters who, all through life, can feel that their parents lived a life so worthy of commendation. They may not be able to refer to them on account of special attainments in scholarship, wealth, or popularity, but they can always feel honored for the reason that they made the Christian life an eminent success.

No more helpful heritage can be passed down to children than the nobility acquired by living on a high moral and religious plane. Children may waste the money or even tarnish the good name that falls to them, but they can never get away from the uplifting and purifying influences of devout parents who live the ideal life. They may forget the comrades of early life; they may even forget the scenes of childhood, but time can never remove from their souls the clearly-defined impressions made by the godly father and the angelic mother.

GO

“And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.”
Luke 17:14.

Jesus often gave those He would heal a task to perform in order to test their faith. He was not the first to do this. Elisha told Naaman to wash in the Jordan to be healed of his leprosy. He complained, but he finally did as Elisha said. These lepers begged for mercy and were very willing to do as they were told. He told them to go and show themselves to the priests. Not a very difficult task, but indeed not one that would draw attention to the lepers.

As Naaman balked at washing in the muddy old Jordan, we often balk at the tasks we are given. Obedience has always been the key to an experience with Jesus Christ. As they went, the lepers were cleansed. We are told in scripture to wait upon the Lord, but often our answer comes when we are in the middle of obeying Him.

Do we find ourselves stuck somewhere along the road of life, not going backward, but certainly not advancing either? It is usually not difficult to remember where we have halted in our progress. Many today are not progressing in the way because they have not followed the spirit's urgings.

The whole point to our following Jesus is that He has already made the supreme sacrifice for us. Most of His commands to us compared with what He did for us are very insignificant, yet our will and our desires often cause us to think otherwise.

What has Jesus told you to do? What has He told you to give up for Him? Chances are you already know and have not followed through. The woman taken in adultery was told to "go and sin no more." Jesus told the leper that returned to Him, "Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." He was told again to go, and we can be assured that the second time he hesitated even less than the first.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

(Read II Thessalonians chapter 2)

The year is 1998. Just two more years and it will be the dawn of a new century. This sounds like the beginning of a futuristic novel but it will be a reality by the time you read this.

The market for books purporting to reveal the future has mushroomed into a million dollar industry. Books full of speculation and sensationalism are being offered through radio, television, magazines and mailings. Unfortunately, much of this material contains three elements that we believe to be contrary to the Word of God.

Many of the modern day prophets are teaching that a great revival will precede the second coming of Jesus Christ. However, within our study chapter we find these words, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition:" The extreme emphasis on a future anti-christ, which may very well become a reality, has caused a loss of concern about the spirit of anti-christ that invaded the earthly church soon after the death of the last apostle.

Within the boundaries of the purported great revival is often found the ecumenical spirit. We read in the study chapter, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall the Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they have received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

The words "Let" and "letteth" refers to restraining. While "he" that restrains is not revealed, we believe this is a reference to the Holy Spirit. According to our understanding, The Holy Spirit will help to restrain the powers of evil until the final consummation of the Church. In the meantime, we are told that many will fall victim to the lies of the anti-christ. We do not believe this is a reference to those who are outside the realm of religious persuasion, but to those who look upon themselves as being religious. Many of these individuals think they are saved but are not because they received not the love of the truth. "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

This brings us to the third, and final, element that we see to be contrary to the Word of God. That is acceptance of mixing with the world and all its allurements. The dire warning within our study chapter, "therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle," is not only often ignored but many times ridiculed by modern day prophets.

So what does the future hold? It has been stated many times that the last hundred years or so has brought more changes than the previous eras of history. We have no doubt that the next century, should the Lord tarry His return, will bring about many more amazing inventions and discoveries.

What does the future hold for the Dunkard Church? Signs of change have already appeared. The Bible Monitor has gone from a bi-monthly to a monthly publication and has increased its size. The outward appearance of many of our members has changed. Annual Conference has changed the rules, some for the good we are sure. We expect more change in the future.

Does our change, along with the rest of the earthly church, go contrary to Holy Scripture? Has the emphasis on church growth caused us, along with many other groups, to fail to watch out for the apostasy, or falling away, that the Bible warns us about?

Have we unawares been caught up in the modern ecumenical movement that refuses to speak out against false doctrine for the cause of a false unity? Have the cults and higher criticism had an effect on our thinking?

Have we unwittingly joined those who love not the truth? Do we ridicule the traditions that have brought us closer to Christ and the Bible? Have we gone so far as to join those who actually ridicule Bible teachings? If so our future is bleak.

Those redeemed can look to a future with Christ. He will return again a second time. To separate second coming theology from practical living and Bible obedience results in catastrophe.

Brother James M. Hite
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WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THE COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS?

The Bible is a great book given by a great author, containing great truths. For convenience in study, it may be variously divided. We may study it by authors, by subjects or books; you may con-

sider it in the light of history, prophecy or poetry; or look at it as consisting of facts, commandments and promises. These are all good divisions. Let us take a look at the last, — facts, commandments and promises. As each has a distinguishing characteristic peculiar to itself, let us take but one of the three, viz., commandments, for our study.

What is it that distinguishes a commandment from a fact or a promise? Let us see. "And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain." Matt. 5:1. This is simply a statement of what happened - a fact. What shall I do with it? Believe it. Again, "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." John 14:18. This is a statement of something that was to be: it was a promise to the disciples and also to us. As a promise it gives me something which I may hope to enjoy. Again, "Love your enemies." Matt. 5:44. This statement differs from the preceding; it is a commandment. It is not a promise for which I may hope; and simply to believe that Christ said it, is not enough. It enjoins something upon me; it asks that of me which requires obedience. So we have facts to believe, promises to realize, commandments to obey. Take from them these characteristics and you destroy that for which they are designed.

Obedience to God's commandments is reasonable, disobedience unreasonable. God is all-wise; he showed his wisdom in creating man with a will free to choose his own course. He is just; he showed his justice both in warning man that partaking of the forbidden fruit meant death, and in punishing man for his sins. He is love; he showed his love in offering his only Son as a ransom for our sins. God, possessing wisdom to an infinite degree, must know what is for man's good much better than man himself; and when he gives any commandment it can be given only as an outgrowth of his love towards us. To live neglectful of his will and disobedient to his commandments is to deny that he has these attributes which we have just mentioned. Sometimes pupils disobey their teachers; employees, their employers; and subjects, their rulers, — because unjust things are required. Will you, dear reader, disobey God on the same grounds?

What does Christ say on this point? "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." John 15:14. The desire for friends is

natural; it is universal. The choosing of a friend is a matter of prime importance, for one must partake of the nature of those with whom he associates. As we sing,

"What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear,"

do we remember his words, "Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you"? Well we may sing of him as the sinner's friend when we recall his words of compassion for her whom all would stone; his weeping over Jerusalem as he looked down upon it, and his prayer on the cross for those mocking and crucifying him.

Again, "If ye love me, keep my commandments," John 14:15; "If a man love me, he will keep my words," John 14:223; "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love," John 15:10. The one thought underlying these sayings is, that the man who truly loves Christ is obedient to his teachings. We often think of how we love the Saviour and tell it to others, wholly forgetting that he has given to the world this very simple test by which they may know where we stand. There is a tendency in human nature at times to neglect what seem to be trivial matters. Like King Saul, we are very apt to presume that the Lord does not mean just what he says, losing sight of the fact that "to obey is better than sacrifice." This evidently shows that obedience is a test of character, a proof to all of how much we really love Jesus. Reader, if you love him, remember his words, "Keep my commandments." Remember also that obedience is a natural outgrowth of love.

What is this life for? Are we born merely to live our few short years and then pass away forever? Oh, no! We are heirs to more worlds than the one; the world to come is ours too; the unseen world to which this life is the stepping-stone. This life is the school in which we are to prepare for the one to come; obedience is the lesson we need to learn. Since we are impure and sinful, unfitted for heaven, it behooves us to remember the words of I Pet. 1:22, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth...." Are we very far from pure? We do well to remember that the Bible throughout contains the highest teachings the world has ever seen, and that those who followed it most closely have been the noblest and

purest. The fruits of obedience, considered merely for this life, are great. But that is not all - obedience is closely connected with salvation. "Not every one that saith into me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21. Again, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46. Evidently two classes are here spoken of, those that **say** and those that **do**.

Read the verses following these references and see to which class you belong. Are you the wise or the foolish man? If Christ does mean what he says here, what, oh, what will be your doom if you obey not his holy will! "What shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?" I Pet. 4:17. Do these words refer to you? Yes, you must be judged by them. "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judged him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48. This word which is to be your judge will stand forever. "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35. This Word is the only written revelation we have from God; we have not even the promise of another. Not only this, but an awful curse is pronounced against those who take any from or add to this revelation. "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Rev. 22:18, 19. Disobeying is either taking away or adding to, and it may be both.

Reader, with these truths staring you in the face, what will you do? Are you so, keeping all the Saviour's commandments, that you can be favorably judged by his Word? Will you not take the Gospel, read it, study it, and pray God for a desire and a disposition to obey it?

Because he loved you, he gave it; because you love him, obey it, that you may be a true follower, known to all. The good disciple is ever asking, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" While he knows it is his duty to obey, yet, because he trusts the Master implicitly, he thinks of it more as a glorious privilege given to him. His obedience

is not one of fear and punishment; it is cheerful, loving, entire—as the servant of Christ he does the will of God from the heart. Eph. 6:6.

One of the tracts available through the General Mission Board
Order all you can use.

TO WHOM SHALL WE LISTEN?

Paul M. Landis

The voice of authority?

What you and I personally think amounts to very little because there is little or no authority to make the world of people accountable to what we think, decide, or declare. For the most part, people can ignore it and suffer little, if any, for doing so.

But there is one voice of absolute authority. This voice has declared and brought into being the laws of gravity, cold, heat, light, darkness, and all the other laws of nature. If we ignore these, we suffer, perhaps even unto the point of death.

These laws are the laws of God. His voice brought them into existence. His voice sustains them. Man cannot change them. Man must work with them or suffer the consequences.

There are other laws of God which are not so obvious to man. But they are just as unalterable as are the laws of nature. Further, every man will be answerable to God in reference to these laws as well. The consequences are just as certain.

The laws to which we refer here are the laws that God has declared for the governing of man's conduct. They constitute right and wrong.

All conduct has moral implications. In God's sight it is either right or wrong. For every decision man makes, he is answerable to God. The right and wrong of all human relations is finally and eternally governed by God. In the end of all things, man will answer to God for all things.

God has given numerous laws to man by way of His Word, the Bible. These are unalterable. Moreover, every man will give an-

swer to God for these laws which are very basic to man's eternal welfare and his relationship to the God of heaven and earth.

The first of these is, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezekiel 18:4). Sin is a breaking of God's law or commandment. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (James 2:10). The history of mankind is a selfish independence that denies God and His sovereignty. For this reason God has put all men under eternal condemnation, with the declaration that all such shall be cast from His presence eternally. They are to be tormented day and night forever with the devil and his angels. The sentence is sure and man can do nothing to alter or cancel it.

The second law is that "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus: Who gave himself a ransom for all." (I Timothy 2:5-6). God provided this ransom for helpless man to redeem him from the sentence of eternal damnation (John 3:16).

God also declares: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked," and, "Let no man deceive you with vain words." We may reason our way through what seems like an accepted and safe course to follow. We may listen to what others have reasoned out similarly. "But know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

Turn to God through Jesus Christ now. Believe God. Repent of your pride and rebellion against His laws. Trust Jesus to save you and lead you in His perfect will unto the end. Seek fellowship with the true believers in God.

Selected by Paul E. Zumbun

MY TEST

Irene Stout

I am taking a test
Of my life here on earth
Since I accepted Christ
And received second birth.

Here are questions I ask-
Do I still love His Word?
Am I much happier
Since He is my Shepherd?

Is my faith still as strong
As it was years ago?
Does my light shine brightly
So others see it glow?
Do I pray as often
As the Lord wants me to?
Do I ask for wisdom
And His way still pursue?

Am I kind to others
And share when there's need?
Do I have compassion
And sow only good seed?
Is there peace in my heart
And do I my voice raise,
Singing hymns to my Lord,
Daily giving Him praise?

Do I thank Him enough
For blessings He's given?
And do I look forward
To a home in heaven?
Am I still determined
To press toward His goal,
Where at last, there is rest

For my poor, weary soul?

Do I ask forgiveness
Of any I offend,
If it be enemy,
Brother, sister, or friend?
Does everlasting life
Fill me with a desire
To patiently serve Christ
Through chastisement and fire?

Am I bringing forth fruits
And laying up treasure,
So when I get to heav'n
I'll have beyond measure?
Do I want salvation
For my soul bad enough
That I will deny self
And Satan I'll rebuff?

The Lord knows the answers
To these questions above.
He knows if I've been true,
If I'm filled with His love.
The Lord knows all my past;
He knows my future, too.
Oh, may I not do deeds
Displeasing to His view.

-Selected

NEWS ITEM

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Mechanicsburg Congregation recently decided to make the Mohler Meetinghouse their permanent home. It can be seen on Route 15 which runs through the town, and it lies on the old Gettysburg Road, which runs parallel to Route 15. Coming from the south take the Rossmoyne Road/Wesley Drive Exit off 15, make a left onto Rossmoyne Road and another left onto the Old Gettysburg Road. The meetinghouse is on the left after you travel about one-half mile. Coming from the north you will exit onto Rossmoyne Road and make a left onto the Old Gettysburg Road. All are welcome to attend worship every Sunday morning at 9:30.

Sister Ruth N. Miller, Cor.

A note from the Editor

The Editor and his family would like to thank all who have remembered us with greetings during this holiday season. Although these greetings have not been answered they certainly have been appreciated. We would want to express our thanks for the many prayers offered in our behalf. It would be impossible to compile these issues without your continued prayers.

At the beginning of this new year, it would be a good time for all to resolve to contribute to the Bible Monitor. To have a monthly paper full of original articles, it is necessary that several contribute their pieces. These pieces do not need to be long, nor do they need to be grammatically perfect. Just write from the heart. Share insights you have gained from your many years of faithful Bible Study. Others will appreciate what you have to share. The Editor will appreciate your help in providing original material.

BILLY SUNDAY'S TRIBUTE TO THE BIBLE

Twenty-nine years ago, with the Holy Spirit as my guide, I entered the wonderful temple of Christianity. I entered at the portico of Genesis, walked down through the Old Testament art galleries where the pictures of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Daniel are hung on the wall.

I passed into the music room of Psalms where the Spirit swept the keyboard of nature until it seemed that every reed and pipe of God's great organ responded to the tuneful harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel.

I entered the chamber of Ecclesiastes where the voice of the preacher was heard, and into the conservatory of Sharon where the Lily of the Valley's sweet-scented spices filled and perfumed my life.

I entered into the business office of Proverbs, and then into the observatory room of the prophets where I saw telescopes of various sizes pointed to far-off events, but all concentrated upon the Bright and Morning Star which is the King of kings.

I caught a vision of His glory from the standpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and passed into the Acts of the Apostles where the Holy Spirit was doing His work in the formation of the infant Church. Then into the correspondence room where sat Paul, Peter, James, and John penning their epistles.

I stepped into the throne room of Revelation, where towered the glittering peaks, and caught a vision of the King sitting upon the throne in all His glory. And I cried: "All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall! Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all!"

Selected

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1998

February 1 - Truthfulness - II Cor. 4:1-2, Prov. 12:19, Prov. 6:16-19.

1. How could we be "handling the Word of God deceitfully"?
2. Why does the Lord hate a lying tongue?

February 8 - Twelve Stones For A Memorial - Joshua 4:1-24.

1. "The Lord magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel." Explain
2. What was the purpose of the twelve stones memorial, on land?, in the midst of Jordan?

February 15 - God Is Ready To Cleanse Canaan - (Joshua 5:1-9 Homestudy) Joshua 5:10-15.

1. Why did God now stop providing the manna?
2. What purpose did God have in Joshua meeting "the captain of the Lord's Host"?

February 22 - The Importance Of Divine Instruction - Joshua 6:1-10.

1. What was the purpose of Israel marching around Jericho, since the Lord had already said unto Joshua, "See, I have given into thine hand Jericho"?
2. Why did Joshua command the people to keep their voices silent as they marched around Jericho?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1998

February 1 - Duty - Luke 9:18-26, Romans 12:1-21.

1. Explain the Christian's duty of self-denial.
2. How can we present our body as a sacrifice while we are living?

February 8 - Our Hearts - Prov. 4:20-27, Matt. 15:18-20, Luke 6:43-49, Rom. 10:1-11.

1. How can we keep God's Word in the midst of our heart?
2. What will reveal the contents of man's heart?

February 15 - The Open Door - John 10:7-10, 14:1-6, Rom. 5:1-11, Heb. 10:16-25.

1. Why did Jesus say He was the door?
2. What is the "New and Living Way"?

February 22 - Hindrances - Gal. 3:1-8, 5:7-9, Heb. 12:1-6.

1. Who can hinder us in our Christian walk?
2. Name some of the weights the Christian must lay aside.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A little girl was asked to recite the 23rd Psalm. Bravely, she started,
"The Lord is My Shepard. That's all I want."

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JESUS CALLS US, O'ER THE TUMULT

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience,
Serve and love thee best of all.

-Cecil F. Alexander

HORSE TRADING

When we think of those who have a reputation for being pretty sharp in their business dealings, we are apt to compare them with horse traders. Horse traders, as a group, have not had a very high reputation for truthful bargaining. They have been suspected of passing off their horse as being younger, stronger, healthier, or more eager to work than what they really might be. In the day of horse power, it was probably necessary to have this group of men around to facilitate the moving of horses to where they were needed. However necessary they were, they did not inspire much confidence in their neighbors and customers.

The horse traders' ability to move their sometimes defective animals gave them a reputation that was easily transferable to politicians. Politicians, being the practitioners of the art of the possible, often become horse traders. They are willing to trade their votes. Successful politicians are practical men. They figure out what they can possibly accomplish rather than what might actually be the exact need. Then they trade votes to make it happen. They may not get all they want but will settle for what they can get.

Politics and morals differ. The politician settles for what he can get through horse trading and compromise. The Christian is guided by the unbending righteousness laid out for him in the Word of God. The Christian is seeking the application of the whole will of God, not just what he can implement through compromise. The practi-

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cality of politics differs from the righteousness of Christianity.

Even a horse trader can make a bad deal. He can outsmart himself. He may meet another horse trader who can outfox him at his own specialty. There is nothing to prevent him from occasionally being on the wrong end of the deal.

Many people, who have never had anything to do with the trading of horses, have also made some bad trades. It is not in their business affairs where they have erred. They have been outfoxed and persuaded to trade their souls for that which is a lot less valuable.

They have been persuaded to believe that the accumulation of the world's goods is the most important factor in life. They have invested their best efforts, years and strength to the garnering of the material objects of this world. They will put in long hours, give their finest physical and mental efforts to obtaining the riches and possessions that the world has to offer. Property and bank accounts have more power over their lives than the more important, eternal issues concerning God.

Jesus poses the questions, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36-37. His questions hit at the root of man's choices. These questions should make men think about their destiny and its value. Although these questions have been before men since the time when Jesus asked them, men have continued to make poor horse trades with their souls.

Profits drive businesses. A business that does not turn a profit within a few years will have to close or face bankruptcy. Many people face Spiritual bankruptcy because they have forsaken the greater profits of life. They have traded their souls for the material riches of this world. They have sacrificed their opportunities to store up Spiritual treasures so they might pursue the lesser treasures that are reflected in the bottom line of the accountant's statement. As a business' success is based upon the profits generated by that business, so is a life tied to the Spiritual profit that it generates.

Satan is a good horse trader. He has no morals in his dealings with men. It does not matter to him that he uses unsavory means to get the advantage over men. He has persuaded many to forgo the

greater profits of following Jesus Christ. In return, they may or may not have gained the riches of this world. Whether they have succeeded by the world's standards they have lost their souls, which are of far greater value than the greatest world fortune.

Jesus continues to call men to take up His cross and follow Him. That does not seem as attractive to men as the pleasures and riches with which Satan would allure them. Bearing a cross does not look as tempting as owning the goods of this world, but the ultimate benefit is far superior. Bearing the cross will lead to eternal life, while the possessions of this life will decay. They have not considered the true consequences of the choice that they must make. They have not proven to be effective horse traders.

What are you willing to trade for your soul? Are you willing to make a good deal? Then take up your cross and follow Jesus.

M.C.Cook

LETTER FROM AFRICA

December 7, 1997

Paul and Mary Stump left Dayton, Ohio at 3:00 P.M. and met Verling and Fern Wolfe at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Left at 6:00 P.M. Plane was half full so we could get some rest. Six hours thirty two minutes to Paris. Good flight, four hour layover. Arrived Nairobi, Kenya, December 8, 9:30 P.M. Andrew Ockenio and Hosea Ambuda, ministers of church at Kapenguria met us at airport. Had reservations made at Parklands Shade Hotel which was very nice with good beds, mosquito nets and running water. It was \$20.00 a night with breakfast of juice, fruit, egg, bread, butter, jelly and corn flakes. Right after breakfast we ordered our supper because we were going to look for a vehicle to buy and apply for church registration. Leg of goat, fried potatoes, rice with broth and juice. Bought nine passenger, 92 Toyota Diesel white van on Thursday.

Left Nairobi, Friday A.M. Saw zebra, gazelle and baboons. Spent one hour at Nakuru Lamp and Light Mennonite Mission. Blessed hour. Stopped at Sister Alvina for delicious meal. Got to Andrew's home before dark. Good service Sunday 9:30 A.M.

Kapenguria and 4:00 P.M. No electric. Wonderful hospitality and fellowship in Andrew's home until Monday, December 22, when we moved in house we rented for Scofields. Sisters came to clean. Men had to break cement garage entrance and recement to get van in. Christmas Day, church at 9:30 A.M. December 26, services at Ortum and Chepkornaw churches, Saturday, 2:00 P.M. at Lwandete church, Sunday Chesubet 9:30 A.M., 12:30 Kaptallimwa, 3:00 P.M. Kiptoi. Monday, December 29, traveled to Uganda and stayed at Peter Kazosi's home. Peter has a private Christian School, 360 students, 60 boarding pupils. The men are putting up a dorm for students. Picked up Scofields at 10:30 A.M. Wednesday, December 31 at Entebbe Airport along Lake Victoria.

Brother Paul and Sister Mary Stump
Brother Verling and Sister Fern Wolfe
Brother Tim and Sister Terry Scofield

AFRICA REPORT

1-17-98

Laborers Forth to the Harvest

We bring forth greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Christ came forth to bring Salvation to us at this time of year. Laborers have been sent forth into Africa to carry the message there. We received several extremely poor faxes from Bro. Paul Stump and Verling Wolfes and spoke with Bro. Paul several times by phone.

Pauls and Verlings had a good flight and arrived Dec. 9. They arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, and began hunting for a van. Prices of new vans had climbed from \$30,000 in September to approximately \$35,000 for what we would consider a very basic model mini van. In addition, insurance on a new van would have cost nearly \$4000. They purchased a 92 Toyota 9 passenger Diesel van for approximately \$10,500. Several times they had starter trouble and finally had the starter replaced.

After purchasing the van, they then headed for Kagenguria (actually Montano) to Bro. Andrew Ochino's place. They stayed there a week or so while looking for a place to rent. They rented a nice large home for 5000 shillings per month, or \$85.00 US. This home

on 29 acres, is just outside Montano along the main road. Having seen the house when I was over there, I will describe it as best I can. It is approximately 200 feet from the road, but has a fence row of trees which provides considerable privacy to the house, so that it cannot easily be seen from the road (with the new driveway, some of the privacy will be lost). It has four large bedrooms (two at each end of the house), a large living room and a comfortable dining room plus a single car garage. One of the bedrooms has a dressing room which could be converted to another bedroom. The kitchen is huge by Kenyan standards, but is still very small by our standards. There are two bathrooms, one complete and the other may have enough room for a stool. However, neither bathroom was completed. They are in the process, or have installed by this time, the telephone, electric, plumbing, water and sewer and put in a new drive into the house at this time. The landlord is allowing our improvements to be applied to 50% of the rent each month.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Terry Scofield left Monday, December 29 for Africa, and arriving with some of their baggage still in Chicago. Please remember them in your prayers, along with Bro. (Sis). Pauls and Verlings as they prepare for the work in Africa. The Scofields and Pauls and Verlings met in Entebbe, Uganda on Wednesday December 31. Together, they constructed a small addition to a school to accommodate services being held by Peter Kazosi and Samuel Onijima, who have taken Godfrey Kiiza's place. They returned to Kenya and are planning to construct several church houses in Kenya. There are eight places in which they worship in Kenya, several of these being a small mud wall room with a tin roof, which are too small to accommodate those in attendance.

Bro. Scofield went with Bros. Andrew and Hoshea to the church in Sondany, the other day, which is a strenuous six hour or so hike up a high mountain (10,000 - 11,000 ft?). They stayed over night, and returned the next day, very tired. They, Pauls, and Verlings are visiting each church location, and have baptized a number of members in both Uganda and Kenya. We have received reports of some minor sickness, flu, and so forth since they are there, but nothing serious. May God's blessings be on the laborers, and the work in Africa.

NOTES FROM NAVAJOLAND

The place was China. The time was the late 1940's. Kyle and Mary Reed had been serving in the refugee camps which were overflowing with destitute and homeless people. It took place during the time of the takeover of China by the communists. Kyle related how they did not have a good variety of food to eat while in China, but they did have plenty of oatmeal which was infested with weevils. He stated that "It helped to eat it with poor lighting as we did not see the weevils that way."

Along with many other workers, Kyle and Mary were asked to leave China because of the takeover by communism but something had taken place in the heart of these two young people that would change their lives forever and have an impact on the lives of others in years to come. No longer were the doors open to help the needy of China. Before long, the plight of the Navajos was being publicized. The Navajos also were in need of material assistance as well as to hear the Word of God.

During a visit to Navajoland by Kyle and several others in 1955, Kyle met with a former acquaintance from China who was now a missionary to the Navajos. They had previously worked together in China. Now the fire which had once burned for the Chinese was being kindled for the Navajos. In a very real way we can say that the door was opened to the Navajos when it was shut in China.

The following was an observation of Bro. Kyle Reed in about 1980: "We worked with the Chinese and found them to be hard workers and good people. The Navajos without the Lord are steeped in superstition and need to be encouraged and held up. It is up to us to hold them up until they can really learn to know the Lord as their helper."

In seeing how the work with the Chinese brought on the work with the Navajos, it is of interest to note that anthropologists are fairly certain that the Chinese and Navajos are related groups of people. The Navajos and Chinese share similarities in language, physical characteristics and it is thought that the Navajos migrated from the north and possibly across the Bering Strait from Mongolia. God works in mysterious ways!

Brother David Skiles

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FEBRUARY 1, 1998 ISSUE

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That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

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SUGGESTIONS TO CON- TRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence, which is difficult to punctuate and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if

you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations into paragraphs. Set these apart from the rest of the article by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words such as, "thot" for "thought", "2" for "two", "&" for "and", "etc." for "and so forth".

6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least a one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references. Please copy wording and punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter, and verse. "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beleive" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your editor should have this item at least thirty days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as local Sunday School officers, District Meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items, "In Memoriam".

12. Read these, then write.



No disaster compares to the devastation of hunger —
except Spiritual hunger.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. March - Quinter, KS

Sat. before Easter - Pleasant Home, CA

First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA

Fourth Sat. April - West Fulton, OH

Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO

Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA

First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA

Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA

Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA

Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA

Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, MD

Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Swallow Falls, MD

First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD

Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA

Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH

Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA

First Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home, CA

First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA

Second Sun. Nov. - Lititz, PA

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**GOSSIP, BOTH, VERBAL
AND BY MAIL**

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters is contrary to Scripture. It should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about those matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others *should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible*

and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members, who were not present, or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, Exit 6. The Church and school are located together.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

Located on Savage River Road in Garrett County, Maryland

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on Interstate 68, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn left or south under the Interstate three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage River Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, West Virginia area travel east on Interstate 68 to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn right, go three tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route 50 take U.S. Route 220 north. Take Maryland Route 135 at McCoolle (just north of Keyser, West Virginia, on Maryland side of bridge) go seven miles on Route 135 (passing through Westernport and past WESTVACO Paper Mill) to Savage River Road. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12.5 miles to church on right

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn off Rt. 44 unto Quinlan Avenue at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is located at 2323 Quinlan Avenue, three-fourth mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #245. Go to fourth stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, 3.5 miles right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Ohio, Rt 40 and Rt 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County Rd 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana 15 to Goshen. Turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block. Turn left on West Clinton Street. Go one mile to Green Road, turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of the road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1.5 miles south to 139th Street.

Turn west and go to second street, turn south one block.

HART, MICHIGAN

From Muskegon go north on Rt. 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1.5 miles to tee in road. Turn right and go approximately one half mile to church on left side of road.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The white church is on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Mohler Meetinghouse - Located near Route 15 on Old Gettysburg Road, south of Mechanicsburg. Coming from the South take the Rossmoyne/Wesley Drove Exit off Route 15. Make a left onto Rossmoyne Road and another left on Old Gettysburg Road. The meetinghouse is on the left after you travel about one-half mile. Coming from the north you will exit onto Rossmoyne Road and make a left onto Old Gettysburg Road.

Brightbill Meetinghouse - Located on U.S. Route 322, 2.5 miles east of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania in Lebanon County. The meeting house is a grey limestone building.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave Junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colorado on U.S. #50, then one mile north.

MOUNTAINDALE, MARYLAND

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountindale,

Maryland, from the east go through the town to the west on the road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses 15, a half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

Located near Collins, Mississippi. From Collins, go east on U.S. 84 three quarters of a mile to Salem School Road. Turn left and go five and one fourth miles to intersection, where there is a directional sign to the church. Turn left and proceed one mile to the next directional sign. Turn right and go one half mile to the church house.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Avenue, Modesto, California. The church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: from the south on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Avenue to Claus Road (approximately six miles). Turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, turn left on Sharon. The Church is on the left.

Coming from the north on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt 20 Alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rt. 15 and U.S. Route 20 Alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on black-top road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The church is

on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

From Interstate 68, which transverses east and west through western Maryland, proceed to Cumberland, Maryland. Take Route 220 South through Keyser, West Virginia to US 50. (You will need to take a left turn to continue following Route 220.) Turn east (left) on US 50 and proceed to Ridgeville. Turn right (south) onto Knobley Road.

Follow Knobley Road 7.8 miles (The Antioch Church of God will be on your right). Turn left onto Harness Run Road (which is unpaved). Keep to the right at the "Y" and proceed 1.5 miles to the Ridge church house on the left.

Coming from the east or west on US 50, turn south onto Knobley Road at Ridgeville, and follow the above directions (from Knobley Road to the church).

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Church address is: 2191 Swallow Falls Road., Oakland, MD 21550. Take Maryland Rt. 219 North of Oakland 5.5 miles or South of I 68, 18 miles to Mayhew Inn Road. West on Meyhew Inn Road to the stop sign (4.2 miles). Bear left onto the Oakland- Sang Run Road for .3 mile to the Swallow Falls Road. Turn right onto the Swallow Falls Road for .3 mile. The Church will be on your left.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Church address is: 4000 Kump Station Road, Taneytown, MD 21787. From Littlestown, PA travel Route 194 south toward Maryland. After crossing PA/MD line (this is shortly after Kingsdale Firehouse on right), turn left onto second hard road on your left, which is Kump Station Road. Follow this road approximately one fourth mile to brick church house on right.

From Taneytown, MD, take Route 194 north three miles. Turn right onto Kump Station Road. Brick church house is on right, approximately one fourth mile.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Church is located in west side of town, on the corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Avenue, go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. 20 Alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

Located in Cherry Valley. Coming north of Beaumont on Beaumont Avenue, turn right on Brookside, go to Jonathan, turn left, go one block to Lincoln, turn right and go to church house, which is on left side of road. Coming east on I-10 exit at Cherry Valley Blvd, go to end of road at Noble. Turn right go two blocks to Lincoln, turn left go to church house on left side of road. Coming west on I-10 exit at Highland Springs Road. Turn right, go to Brookside, turn left, go to Winesap, turn right, go one block to Lincoln, turn left. Church house is on right side of road.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Ward's Church is located in South-Central Pennsylvania about halfway between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40, about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. Ward's Church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held second, fourth and fifth Sundays at 10:00 AM.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION, NEW MEXICO

Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved road leading to the left. A Mission sign marks this junction. Present personnel includes: David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Elaine Hale; and Erin Jamison. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: HCR 79, Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013; telephone: 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

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NEWS ITEMS

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Swallow Falls Congregation's Spring Revival is scheduled for March 8 through March 15. Bro. Frank Shaffer, Jr. is planning to be our evangelist. There will be NO Lovefeast, but we would be glad for your presence. Over night company is no problem. Just come. May God bless us all.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

TORREON MISSION NEEDS

At the last board meeting, it was decided to retire one of the mission vans and replace it with a newer model. Two of the vans have high mileage on them. In order to maintain a good working fleet we will try to replace one within the next few months. We will be replacing the 1990 model which has had the most use on the school route. We will be looking for a good used van.

Funds will be needed to purchase this vehicle. It will likely require around \$15,000.00 to make this purchase. Individuals or churches who would like to help with this may send their gift to Marlan Jamison, Treasurer, Box 100, Quinter KS 67752. Designate it for "VAN". We thank you in advance for helping to meet this need.

Brother David Skiles

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Benjamin, son of Brent and Kelly Cottrell, felt the need of yielding his life to Christ. Pray that his young years will be a blessing of the Lord.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We know our God is an awesome God!

Words cannot express how it felt to know that from coast to coast prayers were ascending in our behalf and that of our Brianna.

The unexpected always tends to make you take a step back and look at your life with God. He gave us this time to do that and grow.

Before and during Brianna's open heart surgery was a very uncertain time for us but we felt a peace and comfort knowing the Saints of God were praying for her and our family. Thank you so much.

God gave us a miracle in many ways and for that we are truly thankful.

A special thank you to all who encouraged us with cards, telephone calls, visits and gifts of love. It means so much to be thought of at times like this.

May God Richly Bless You!

Brother Tim and Sister Valerie Noecker

HART, MICHIGAN

Hart Congregation is growing! For that we praise the Lord. There have been six births added to our families. They are:

A daughter: to Timothy and Mary Lou Kasza. Priscilla Reed was born April 5, 1997.

A daughter: to Ray and Cheryl Noecker. Michelle Danae was born April 5, 1997.

A son: to Donald and Cora McGhan. Aaron Michael was born June 14, 1997.

A daughter: to Jeremiah and Debra Johnson. Hosanna Joy was born June 22, 1997.

A daughter: to Ronald and Nancy Marks. Naomi Leeann was born September 5, 1997.

A son: to Kevin and Dorthy Haines. Ezekiel Lamar was born November 20, 1997.

This concludes the news for Hart Congregation for 1997. A

blessed New Year to each of you!

Sister Anna M. Powell, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1998

March 1 - Endurance - Mark 4:3-8, II Tim. 2:1-10, Heb. 3:5-6.

1. How should we endure the hardness of life?
2. Why did Paul endure all things?

March 8 - The Walls Of Jericho Fall - Joshua 6:11-27.

1. What was the accursed thing from which the Israelites were to refrain?
2. Why were the precious metals of Jericho taken into the treasury of the Lord, but all the animals and people slain, except for Rahab's household?

March 15 - Defeat At Ai - Joshua 7:1-5.

1. Why was the anger of the Lord kindled against all the children of Israel when only Achan had disobeyed?
2. Why did the hearts of the people (Israel) melt and become as water?

March 22 - Obedience - Psa. 103:17-22, Matt. 6:24, Heb. 13:17.

1. What is "The voice of His word" which we are told to "hearken unto"?
2. Why is it not possible to obey more than one master?

March 29 - Joshua Before The Lord - Joshua 7:6-12.

1. What did Joshua think was the cause of the Israelites defeat at Ai?
2. Why did God not accept Joshua's and the Elder's repentance, but instead said "Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1998

March 1 - Ignorance - Isa. 1:1-9, Isa. 59:1-8, I Pet. 1:13-16.

1. Why did Israel no longer know her Master?
2. How can we avoid fashioning ourselves according to the former lusts in our ignorance?

March 8 - Love - I Cor. 13:1-13.

1. Why must all things be done with charity to be pleasing to God?
2. Explain why charity is greater than faith and hope.

March 15 - Values - Jos. 24:13-15, Jer. 5:1-4, Rev. 3:14-22.

1. What has the Lord given to us for which we did not labor?
2. Why is it that spiritually we tend to think we "have need of nothing", and yet Christ would probably say to us, as He did to the Church at Laodicea, "you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked"?

March 22 - Our Prayer Life - Dan. 6:10, II Chr. 7:12-15, Matt. 7:7-11, Rom. 8:26-34, Matt. 26:40-44.

1. What is it that we allow to keep us from praying?
2. What specific conditions did God say must be met for Him to hear and answer our prayers?

March 29 - Christianity - Rom. 5:1-11, II Pet. 1:5-11.

1. What does it mean to be a Christian?
2. How can we make our calling and election sure?



Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces up,
snow is exhilarating; there is no such thing as bad weather,
only different kinds of good weather.

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXVI

MARCH 1998

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
--	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

O LORD

I see the blue sky Lord
I see the white clouds
I see the green grass
And I wonder at how
You could love someone
As sinful as me
And how you could be
So forgiving
O give me the strength Lord
To do what you will
And send your Holy Spirit
My mind and soul to fill
O keep me safe Lord
Until it's my time to go
And then I'll be with you Lord
This I surely know.

-Brother William Scofield

MERCY AND JUDGMENT

God has ordained the establishment of governments to control the evil desires and activities of its citizens. Since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the nature of the human family has been toward doing evil rather than good. Governments use force to maintain law and order.

God established governments for the protection of the good. However, in practice, many governments have existed that were evil and were used to further the forces of evil. There have been dictators, emperors, and others who have ruled only to further their own interests. Most governments have tried to encourage good but have not always been consistent in their enforcement of the laws. Often a country's legal system is not compatible with the expressed will of God. Although some Biblical precepts may survive in a nation's laws, many have been modified over the years. Some laws are totally at odds with Biblical precepts.

The laws of a country are enacted that they be obeyed by the citizens of that country. If those laws are broken, there are penalties established for each infraction. Some penalties are monetary, others involve prison time, while the rankest disobeying of the laws call forth the death penalty. The severity of the penalty should match the severity of the crime. These penalties are imposed not only to serve as punishment for crimes committed, but also as deterrents, so others will realize the consequence before committing a similar crime.

THE BIBLE MONITOR**MARCH 1998**

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These penalties are imposed by the courts, which are dedicated to the discovery of justice. It is supposed that all will receive a fair trial, before a penalty is imposed. In reality, courts may err by not providing a fair forum for the presentation of evidence or by rushing to judgment without all the pertinent facts. Many guilty persons have escaped their deserved punishment, while some innocent people have been convicted of crimes they did not commit.

The criminal justice system is man's method for dealing with sin. God's method is through His unlimited mercy. Although God has a law that is stricter than any manmade law, He tempers that law with His great mercy. It is easy to be convicted of wrongdoing in God's court. As humans we are prone to disobey the will of God in all areas of our lives. We are guilty of omitting to do what we should do and of committing deeds that should not have been done. Since humans are imperfect, they are guilty of sin.

God does not want His will disobeyed and ignored. He will deal with unforgiven sin in the great day of judgment. His wrath will be full-blown. There will never have been such wrath and judgment meted out as there will be at that time. The judgment of Satan will be total. He will be cast into the Lake of Fire for all eternity. Those who have followed his direction will have the same penalty imposed. It will be a terrible judgment but one deserved for disobeying God's Word. Since the Bible has been freely available, there has been a warning given to the disobedient.

The worst part about this judgment is not its severity, but that it is totally unnecessary. None would need face such a penalty if they would throw themselves upon the mercy of God before it is too late. God's mercy is available through the outstretched arms of the Church. The Church presents God's mercy to the world for the acceptance of each one. Unlike the world's courts, which are established to deliver justice, the Church is established to offer mercy. Through the presentation of the plan of salvation, mercy will be made available to the people of the world, who must face God's judgment, otherwise. That mercy is available so none would have to face God's wrath and judgment.

We should be thankful that God's mercy is so freely available. We should be thankful that God has intrusted it to the Church, that

it might be made known to a world that so desperately needs it.

This mercy is the mark of Christians in contrast to the civil and political jurisdictions around us. Christians, as a forgiven people, should desire to extend that same forgiveness to those who sin around us. Knowing that we are all apt to fall into some type of sin, we should be willing to share forgiveness with those who do fall to their particular temptation.

The government's ordained purpose is to punish those who break its laws. The government should offer justice, but the Church has been commissioned to offer mercy. Mercy is greater than judgment, because it is God's mercy brought down to man.

Have you received God's mercy? Have you shown mercy to another?

M.C.Cook

"A FRESH START"

Welcome to the New Year of 1998! With God's help we have made it through another year which is reason for heartfelt gratitude. Again, God has been good and faithful to His people, to His church, to each of us personally!

As we step across the threshold of a new year there are many reflections and ponderings in our hearts and minds. Among these is the realization that before us lies the challenge of the stewardship of another year. Looking back over the year that is past, no doubt there are some fond memories, happy times, victories won, the fulfillment of tasks completed or mountains conquered. And, for most of us, if we are honest, there are also some memories we would like to erase, or rather, there are some things that we wish had never happened!

Reflecting can be useful and beneficial, but, reality reminds us that 1997 is history. Its time has been filled and completed. The past year is settled and will not be changed, but the future lies before us as a clean new page or a field of new fallen snow. As you look ahead and ponder the year, how do you feel? What emotions come? Excitement? Anticipation? Hope or maybe some fear?

We all know that a year, though 365 days in length, passes so quickly and if the Lord tarries and gives us life, so soon we will be looking back on 1998 as it, too, will then be history.

As we ponder our hopes, dreams and plans for this year, and prayerfully consider our call to be good stewards of this time and opportunity, how can we make 1998 a year that we can look back on with joy and satisfaction, and one that honors the Lord and furthers His kingdom?

Our God chose to start His Book with the words, "In the beginning, God..." If we are to **end** the year walking with and living for God, we must **begin** the year with Him! Jesus said, "But seek ye **first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33) O, how easy it is to get these in a reverse order! God wants us to know that for this year to be one of fulfillment and victory, we must have priorities starting with His will, His Word, His wisdom, His ways.

As the Apostle Paul came near the end of his life, he said, "I **have** fought a good fight, I **have** finished my course, I **have** kept the faith." Paul was not bragging. This was a statement of satisfaction, purpose, and victory! He had faithfully run the race, done the Father's will. But, I am convinced that he could have never made that statement at the end of his collective years if he was not able to say it at the end of his individual years. Neither will we! If God gives us this year, if it is to become a **year** lived for Him, then we must make each **minute, hour, day** and **week**, time that is lived for Him!

Life is fleeting, thus we must squeeze the most from each moment! Make each day count for time and eternity. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come, but we have this moment, we have today!

It has been said, "We never seem to do today, what we yesterday planned to do tomorrow, and we'll wish tomorrow we had done yesterday." Therefore we should "Live today like you planned yesterday to live today and live today like you will wish tomorrow you had lived yesterday."

I will close with a challenge to each of us. Let's pick one area of our life that we want to correct or improve this year and then set our heart on making it happen! (We could do the same with our mar-

riage, family, children and the church.) Seek the direction and help of the Lord to make it happen. Do it for Him, through Him, as unto Him. "...that in all things He might have the preeminence."

Blessings to each of you,
Brother Jim Meyers

STEPPING INTO THE WATER

Peter peered across the gunwales of the boat into the misty darkness and squinted his eyes trying to make out what was out there on the water. Was he hallucinating or was that really a ghost out there? He nudged his fellow disciples and pointed. They watched in astonishment. As the apparition moved closer, they became more than a little concerned. To their bewilderment, as the figure drew closer, it began to look like their Master. In fearful desperation they called out, and to their amazement, Jesus said, "Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid." At that instant, Peter knew what he had to do; he had to go to Jesus. At Jesus' beckoning word, Peter left the boat and walked on the water to his Master.

Peter, in his excitement at seeing Jesus and in his haste to leave the boat, temporarily forgot the storm. After leaving the boat, he took his eyes off Jesus to look at the surrounding turbulence. He immediately began to sink. Upon hearing Peter's cry of desperation, Jesus reached out and rescued him. In that moment, and in the subsequent moments as they walked together back to the boat, Peter felt exhilaration as he had never felt! He had stepped into the uncharted, the untested, and the unknown, but Jesus was there. He would never be the same.

The Bible abounds with examples of people who also stepped into the water both literally and figuratively. The lives of these people have been documented in Scripture for us to learn from and be inspired by. They were summoned by God to leave their comfort zone and launch out into the unfamiliar. Let's look at the lives of Peter and some other Bible characters who stepped into the water and see just exactly what results from that action.

I. Leaving Security

Stepping out means that we leave security behind. As Peter

stepped out of that boat and onto the water he was leaving his comfort zone. He had spent his life working in fishing boats and the boat he was in represented all that was familiar to him. When Peter left the boat he was leaving his security and assuming great risk. If you really think about it, what was more secure—to be in the boat or to be in the presence of Jesus? You see, many Christians cling frantically to what they consider to be their security not realizing that it is a mere facsimile of the real thing.

During the administration of Oliver Cromwell, England encountered a financial crisis. When Cromwell was told that many of the local churches had silver statues of saints sitting in little niches simply gathering dust, he issued the order, “Melt down the saints and put them into circulation.” Those silver saints were taken out of their “comfort” zone and put to use. Are you clinging tenaciously to your own little comfort zone or are you ready to leave your present security behind and be moved into a position where God can utilize you more effectively? God sometimes asks people to leave their security by changing geographic locations, but many times He does not. Do not be lulled into thinking that you must change your geographical location in order to leave your comfort zone, and experience the great blessings that can be yours when you do. Remember, your security might not be as dependable as you think. Your place of security might not be where God wants you.

II. Unhesitating Obedience

When the Ethiopian Eunuch learned what God’s will was for his life that day as he was riding in the chariot, he gave the command for his chariot to be stopped and he was baptized. His obedience was immediate and unhesitating. He stepped into the water without trepidation, I’m sure. Is it possible that God is not blessing us and using our lives as He could because we are holding back? Is it possible that God is grieved with us when He asks us to step out only to have us hesitate, doubt, and argue?

Those of us who are parents like to have instantaneous obedience from our children. That is noble and good, but consider the reality that it is very easy to demand greater things of our children than we demand of ourselves. How often have we heard God’s voice speaking to us giving us direction only to ignore that voice?

Or how often have we complied, but only after childishly dragging our feet?

III. Accepting Discipline

Another individual who stepped into the water although not of his own will, was Jonah, who was called by God to minister to the people in Nineveh. Jonah had other ideas; he ran in the other direction. God, in His wisdom, saw that He needed to get Jonah's attention so took classic fatherly action—He disciplined Jonah. Quite obviously, the Jonah who was regurgitated onto the beach by the great fish was not the same one who hit the water after being tossed overboard by his traveling companions. Something had happened in the interim. Jonah received the discipline of God.

We too, as we step into the water, will receive God's discipline. Perhaps we will receive discipline for going in the opposite direction from where God wants us, like the situation with Jonah. Perhaps we are like the Pharisees, all up to standards on the outside, but full of unseemly things on the inside, so we receive the discipline of God. Possibly God just wants to get our attention. Whatever the situation, discipline is a fundamental element in the Christian experience so we should not be shocked when God demonstrates His love for us by admonishing us.

IV. Accepting Unpleasant Situations

Naaman, the Syrian army officer, was plagued with the dreadful disease of leprosy until he went through the unpleasant experience of bathing in a river he felt was incompatible with his lifestyle. He stepped into the water, that muddy Jordan River, as a person with an appalling future because of his disease, and stepped out a healthy man with an optimistic future. We can haughtily settle back and say that we would never be like Naaman and reject a disagreeable situation to which God has called us. Really, we are not too much different from Naaman in many ways, because we can have the same inclination toward fleshly weaknesses he had.

Maybe God has called you to speak to that agnostic neighbor who intimidates you greatly—an unpleasant situation. Maybe God has called you to confess your jealousy to a brother or sister and admit that you have tried to make yourself feel better by denigrating them—an unpleasant situation. Perhaps God has called you to pull

up roots and help an isolated congregation that is struggling for existence—an unpleasant situation. You see, it is hypocritical of us to criticize Naaman for his reluctance, when we also need to step into the water and discern that many repulsive situations are meant for our benefit.

V. Waiting Years for the Fulfillment of Dreams

In John 5:2-9 the story is told of a man who had been waiting for thirty-eight years by the Pool of Bethesda yearning for the time he could be the first to step into the water after it had been troubled by an angel. Although he did not literally step into the water, his situation serves to teach us that stepping into the water can mean that sometimes we have to wait years to see the fulfillment of our hopes and dreams. This anonymous man was irrepressible in his desire to be healed. Thirty-eight years he waited. Thirty-eight years, you say? Yes, he waited thirty-eight years to see his dreams fulfilled.

Stepping into the water suggests that we be willing to doggedly continue on despite years and years of not seeing our hopes fulfilled, our prayers answered, or our dreams come to pass. If the man by the pool had given up after even thirty-five years he would not have experienced the blessing of Jesus' touch nor would we have his tremendous example of persistence. He waited patiently; he began to grow old. He watched others be healed; he grew older. Time after time he was beaten to the water, and he grew older still. He wondered when his dream of being healed would come to pass, and as he wondered, he learned patience. Time passed and he grew older, but his patience and persistence were rewarded, not in his time, but in God's time.

VI. Blessings are Just Around the Corner

At this point you might be thinking that you do not want to step into the water. You do not want to leave your security, give God your unhesitating obedience, or do any of the other things listed. You might feel that the costs are too great and the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. But rest assured, God has great things in store for you just around the corner.

You see, another person in the Bible who stepped into the water was the daughter of Pharaoh. This lady stepped into the water,

found the infant Moses lying in a reed basket, and experienced remarkable blessing! Not much is known about this Egyptian woman, but it is safe to assume that Moses brought her extraordinary blessings. After stepping into the water that day, she had a son to love and cherish. She was able to hear the pleasant babbling and cooing of an infant. She could feel the softness of his skin and see the brightness of his eyes. She could watch with admiration as he grew into a great prince of Egypt. Yes, those were awesome blessings! But she had to step into the water first.

God has wonderful blessings in profusion for all who are willing to step into the water. In fact, the Bible tells us that our senses cannot even begin to comprehend the things God has in store for the people who love Him. Yes, God will give blessings in this life, and in the next one also. But we have to take the plunge. We have to be willing to leave our comfort zone behind us and launch out into the unknown with God. We have to be willing to face new challenges, but those new challenges will bring exciting new experiences. We have to be willing to leave behind the false sense of security we might now be experiencing before we can experience true security in knowing that we are walking with Jesus. We must be willing to give instant obedience to God before we can experience the bliss of having Him chart our course for us. We must realize that God calls us to wait many years for certain things and learn patience all the while before we have our dreams fulfilled. Undeniably, the blessings are there—just around the corner.

VII. Entrance into Heaven

The final step to consider, is at this point in our lives, a step that has not yet been taken. When we talk of entering into Heaven we say that we are going to cross the final Jordan and enter the ultimate promised land called Heaven. None of us have made that final step yet, but by God's grace we will. We are going to experience many rapturous occasions as we step into the water with the Lord throughout our life here, but they cannot compare to the bliss of taking that final step and entering Heaven. When we take that step all the daunting challenges we faced on earth, all the fears of having our imagined security taken away from us, all the times we had to be disciplined by God, and all the unpleasant situations we had to face in this life will fade into oblivion. That final step, the step

into Heaven, will be the most glorious of all!

So go ahead, step into the water! You will never be the same.

Brother Paul Skiles
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AFRICA NEWS

"Ladies and Gentlemen, flight number 981 to Paris is now ready to board." What a welcome announcement as we wait in the Nairobi Airport for our return home. As we leave Bro. Tim and Sis. Terry Scofield and Bro. William and Bro. Matthew behind to serve their one year of service in Africa, we trust the Lord will bless them abundantly for their commitment to serve Him in Africa.

As we are returning from our seventh trip to Africa in a bit less than three years, we reminisce over the past visits and think of the accomplishments and progress made in Kenya and Uganda. We have experienced many disappointments and stressful times, but Praise God! the blessings and joy of seeing souls committing their lives to Him, accepting baptism, and being born into the Kingdom of God far exceeds any negative experiences that we have encountered. The dishonesty that is embedded in the hearts of the African people is just as hard to overcome as pride is in the American people.

The Lord provided us with good weather and good turbulent-free flights from Dayton to Philadelphia, where we met Bro. Verling and Sis. Fern Wolfe who accompanied us to Paris and on to Nairobi, Kenya. We arrived there at 10:30 P.M. on December 8. We were met by Bro. Andrew Ochiemo and Bro. Hosea Ambundo who accompanied us to Kapenguria after a three day stay in Nairobi, getting the necessary paper work and Pin Number to buy a vehicle. Even this is not as easy as it is in America. Here you can go to the dealer with the money and drive a vehicle away in only a few short moments.

Traveling along the Highways in Africa is both interesting and somewhat dangerous. You have to watch for bad pot holes and

decide which ones you want to avoid, sometimes making the wrong choice, and shaking up the Van and everyone in it. Where the roads are nice, they make them rough by putting speed bumps across the road that you must almost stop to cross safely. Vehicles must go through a lot of stress if you are not a careful driver.

As we traveled over 6,000 kilometers while in Africa, we saw baboons, gazelle, zebras and giraffes. We saw one terrible truck accident where three large trucks were totally torn apart. Another place a tractor broke in half with the rear half and trailer on the right side of the road and the front half on the left side in the ditch after hitting a rough railroad crossing.

We arrived in Kapenguria about 6:00 P.M. after stopping at Nakura to visit the Mennonite Mission and at Sis. Elimina's home for a visit and a meal. We made our home with Bro. Andrew and Sis. Catherine Ochieno for two weeks. We spent our time searching for a house to rent and visiting the eight churches in Kenya. The churches are Makutano (at Kapenguria), Chepkorniswo, Ortum, Sondany, Chesubet, Kaptalamua, Kiptoi and Luandeti.

Our house was vacated and we moved in on December 22. We then started on various projects on the house such as lowering the approach to the garage, making a new driveway from the road, fixing locks on doors and windows and sitting up house keeping. We spent Christmas in Kenya and New Years in Uganda.

On Monday, December 29, we drove across the border to Uganda and on to Kampala which was about 380 kilometers and eight hours driving. We were met by Peter Kasozi and Samuel Onjima at the Sheridan Hotel. We went out to Peter and Rose's house where we made our home for one week. We immediately started the building project at Peter's school. Verling became both the foreman and laborer with the few Ugandan natives, who had altogether different work ethics from what Verling was used to. Paul became the gofer - go-fer this and go-fer that, buying and hauling building material and people.

On Wednesday, December 31, we met the Scofields at the Entebbe Airport. They found out, about one hour after their arrival, that all nine pieces of luggage did not arrive, and that it would not be there till the following Sunday. They were fortunate to have suf-

ficient essentials in their four pieces of carry on and their tent that we brought with us. They pitched their tent in Peter's back yard and fared real well for the following four days.

We finished the building project at Peter's school and put a roof on Bro. Patrick's house in five days. We enjoyed four different services at the school. We looked for a place for baptism, but found it too far to go to Lake Victoria. Considering the pollution of the lake and streams because of the extreme, heavy rainfall, we decided to dig a 3x4 foot hole near the well pump and lined it with plastic to avoid the muddy water and filled it with water for baptism. In the afternoon of January 4, we gathered together for baptism. Eleven were baptized. We had an enjoyable stay with Peter and Rose that will long be remembered. We trust God to Bless them for their efforts and hospitality.

Monday morning we bade our farewells and returned to Kenya. After retracing our bad roads, we arrived home about 4:00 P.M.

We continued our work of starting up house keeping. We finished the work at the house, such as getting more furniture, utensils, putting up a water tank, plumbing, septic tank, wiring the house for electric, telephone, building fence and installing a gate and so forth.

We again visited the churches where baptism was requested. Ten were baptized at Ortum, fifteen at Chepkorniswo, five at Chesubet, nine at Kaptalamus, twenty at Kiptoi and sixteen at Kapenguria. That made a total of seventy-five in Kenya and eleven in Uganda. We rejoice that in the three years of working and preaching in Africa, there has been a total of seventy-one baptized in Uganda and two hundred one in Kenya, making a total of two hundred seventy-two in all. We realize that some have already fallen from grace and without a doubt, some more will, but we praise God and trust and pray that most will live true to their vows till the Lord calls us all Home.

We had two Bible study classes in the Scofield's home with above thirty in attendance each time. We pray that interest in Bible study will continue.

The weather was unusually cool and rainy most of our days spent in Kenya and Uganda. When we visited the churches at

Chesubet, Kaptalamua and Kiptoi, we stayed over night for two nights. It was rather uncomfortable with the rainy days and nights, but we managed well with some sleeping in the van. The mountainous roads were very bad, due to the rain. The poor van was really initiated, dragging through the mud ruts. We became stuck once, but did manage to get out without pushing.

We bid farewell to our dear Kenyan Brethren and Sisters on Wednesday evening, after Bible Study and left early Thursday morning for Nairobi. Our intention was to spend the day in Nairobi to take care of some necessary business, but found out that it was a holiday and all offices and stores were closed.

We left Nairobi, January 30 at 11:30 P.M. leaving the Scofields to return to their home in Makutano to carry out the work that has been started. We pray God's blessings on them as they serve Him in Kenya. May you all continue to remember them in prayer.

We want to thank all of you for your prayers on our behalf while in Africa.

Brother Paul and Sister Mary Stump

OUR AFRICAN TRIP

We had anxiously been looking forward to going to Africa since June 1997. Now that mission is in the past. Our plan for the mission was to help in building a few church buildings. There are eight places of worship at the present time. All but one have a building rented to worship in. Land has not been purchased as yet for new church buildings.

A house was located and rented for our mission headquarters. It is a ranch-type house with an attached garage for the van. Most of our time was spent getting the house ready for our missionaries. Electric wiring was installed, however it has not been connected to power lines as yet.

Plumbing was also installed. One full bath and a half bath. A water tower was set up with a one hundred ten gallon storage tank for our water supply. Water is usually only available for about two hours a day so the tank holds enough water for the day.

The Lord has surely been good to us in securing the mission

complex. It's a beautiful location, setting apart from other buildings. We also put a four strand barbed wire fence around the property. Animals roam freely, so we had cows in our yard almost every day. Having the cows was not that bad but they always managed to leave so many calling cards.

The last week in December we went to Uganda to pick up Bro. Tim and Sis. Terry Scofield and their two sons Bro. William and Bro. Matthew. We were there one week. While there we helped build a dormitory. It is a brick building, 24x25 feet. It certainly is different building in Africa than in the United States. Everything has to be done by hand.

The weather was warmer in Uganda than in Kenya, because Kenya has a higher elevation. At our mission compound the elevation is 4,000 to 6,000 feet. We always had cool evenings.

We also looked into the possibilities of drilling a water well on the compound. There is a great need for water. Most of the water is taken from streams, even from water holes after a rain. As of now it looks promising and affordable for drilling a well. Let us pray the Lord's will may be done in supplying the need.

May the Lord bless you for remembering us by letters and prayers while we labored in Africa.

Brother Verling and Sis Fern Wolfe

THE SCOFIELDS IN AFRICA

Church Services

Church services are very different here than in America. First, while every one is coming in, they will sing a praise song. When they sing a praise song they clap their hands, sing, shout and repeat the same line until church is ready to start. After that, they sing a worship song. They clasp their hands together like they are praying, most of them cry, and sing in perfect harmony. They put us to shame when they sing. Here is a chorus of a worship song. "Nah, nah noonie ah myah choyangoo nah, nah noonie adjue." Next, every one prays out loud at the same time, which is very confusing. Following the prayer, someone stands up and with an interpreter, preaches a sermon. After that, they sing a worship song and are

dismissed.

Brother Matthew W. Scofield

New Friends

Greetings from Kenya, We pray you are hard at the Lord's work. None of us can say, we have nothing to do. If we give each day to the Lord, He will more than fill it with work for His kingdom. Amen.

Almost anytime we go outside, a child will come from out of the bushes. Yesterday, I was doing laundry on the porch. A small boy, perhaps five to six years old, was walking his family's goats through the field next to us. He kept watching me. I waved, he waved, and was soon out of sight. A door has been opened.

Not long after, three little boys showed up at the end of the yard. Slowly they came closer and closer. I would smile and wave. Before long they were on the steps to the porch. By now William and Matthew were sitting on the porch making clothes hangers from wire. The little boys were very interested in what William and Matthew were doing. I went into the house and brought out three crackers. Crackers here are sweet like cookies. I was rewarded with three big smiles. While the three small boys were slowly eating their crackers, the little goat-herder came back with a younger sister and an older sister carrying baby brother. The three small boys shared their crackers with the other children. I smiled and spoke to the three who had just joined us, and made over the baby a little. A door has been opened. It wasn't long till we looked up and the children were gone.

Before I was done with the laundry, the three small boys were back. They had brought a toy to share with us. They had an old bicycle wheel and a forked stick. I smiled and asked one of the boys if he could make the wheel go. He did not understand. So I pointed at the wheel and rolled my finger in a circle then pointed to the stick. A big smile. He dropped the wheel and took out running around the yard pushing the wheel with the stick. With a big smile he handed the toy to me. I gave it a try, which brought lots of laughs. So I handed the toy to the larger boy of the three and off he went, rolling it all around the yard. I laughed and clapped. The laundry was done and it was time to start supper. I waved good-bye to my new friends and off into the bushes they went.

Doors had been opened today. We are trying to learn more Kiswahili so we can share the Word of our Lord with these children. Please pray for these children. They are dressed in rags and have very little in their lives. While we cannot give them much, we can give them an understanding of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Sister Terry Scofield

A Hike

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! Praise the Lord! Bwana ausi fuve! Amen! We have been very busy here in Kenya, baptizing, visiting, working on the mission house and hiking up mountains.

It is this last event, of which I was the lone American to experience, that I want to relate.

In short what happened is this. Andrew, Hosea, Solomon and I hiked twelve miles up a mountain to a church and back down the next day. The day began with public transportation from Makitono to Ortum. Eleven people in a five passenger Peugeot station wagon, loaded with maize in the back and baggage on top. We started up the trail at 11:00 A.M. We stopped part way for a sugar cane break and later for some roasted maize on the cob and still later for oranges, bread, peanuts and melted kisses. The maize and sugar cane we bought on the trail. Half way up Solomon took my bag and would not give it back. I was grateful.

If getting to heaven is anything like this, we would not make it by ourselves. Praise the Lord! Amen! Andrew and I talked a lot about the Bible on the way. Everyone was patient and waited for me. We finally arrived at the Sondoni pastor's home at 7:00 P.M. We had a supper of sweet greens, ugali, chapati and chi, followed by singing, prayer and worship until 1:00 A.M.

We read in Haggai about being called to "Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house." Of course our house was a spiritual one, the Kingdom of God. It only took four hours to go down. One brother, Steven, can hike up in two and a half hours and down in one and a half hours, twelve miles each way. We saw

a few monkeys, lots of water and interesting birds. Many people climb a mountain simply to get to the top. We had a better reason, actually around twenty or thirty, the souls of the Sondoni Dunkard Brethren. I will probably limp physically for weeks, but praise the Lord eternally because of this trip.

Walking into the Sondoni area was like dreaming when you awake. There was mist and rivulets of water all over the green hills and valleys. Beautiful painted round huts were set in irregularly rounded pastures. Life was simple and needs very few. Truly the fleshly lusts of this world are far away from these people. It is my prayer that they know what a blessing that is. Bwana Ausi fuve! or Praise the Lord!

Peace to you,
Brother Tim Scofield

A PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

II Kings 22:13, "Go ye, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not harkened unto the words of this book, to do according to all that which is written concerning us."

As we look at this chapter in God's Holy word we find two things that leave us with questions and speculation. First of all, the Scriptures tell us that Josiah was only eight years old when he began to reign. It also says of him, "And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left."

How did Josiah know to walk in the ways of right? It is said of his father, Amon, that he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD. It is said that Amon served the idols that his fathers served. The lineage of righteousness for Josiah would go all the way back to his great-grandfather, Hezekiah. Is it possible that this spiritual heritage was talked about but not observed? Was his mother, Jedidah, one that was familiar with and followed the ways of the LORD? Scripture does not answer these questions.

The Bible also seems to indicate that the Scriptures available in

the days of Josiah were lost. Therefore his mother or anyone else could not have instructed him from the Holy Word. While the "book of the law" was lost to the people, there were priests. Did the priests have knowledge of this book of the law? It would almost read as if this was not the case. Then what did the priests teach? Did they merely use their own human wisdom and judgment? Were they spiritual leaders that allowed the people to decide what was the Lord's desire for their lives?

Another interesting insight into this biblical event was that the prophet Jeremiah was active at this time. Were the people in this account ignorant of his ministry, not able to be in contact with him because of distance or merely not willing to hear what he preached?

Our Brethren forefathers were often known as "a people of the Book." They originated at a time when there was much spiritual confusion. Many of the people were not able to read the Scriptures for themselves because of a lack of education. In most places religious freedom was unknown. Those living at that time were forced to attend the church that was chosen by the political ruler of the area.

We have much in common today with those in the days of Josiah and also our Brethren forefathers. While most individuals have the ability to read today, the "book of the law" is lost to many of them. A large percentage of individuals have no desire to know what God's will is for their lives because they choose to reject any form of "religion." There are those who have been misled by false religions and cults. They think they have truth, but, in reality, the "book of the law" is lost to them, also.

Unfortunately, the world is filled with churches that fall into the category of mainline denominations with leaders who refuse to use the Holy Scriptures to lead their people. Like the priests in Josiah's day, they lead the people without the "book of the law." For all practical purposes the "book of the law" is lost to these individuals.

In our day we have those who claim to be Bible believing Christians who preach and teach that God has no rules for Christians today. They quickly state that some things are displeasing to God but they insist that absolutely nothing that you do has anything to do with your salvation.

The Bible does teach in Galatians 3:24-25, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." But, in our opinion, it is ridiculous to conclude from this that all the teachings and instructions in the New Testament have nothing to do with our salvation. In fact, Scripture warns that disobedience will bring the wrath of God upon those who willfully choose to ignore God's given instructions.

Let us desire to be "a people of the book." Let us read and study the Holy Scriptures that they may not be lost unto us.

Brother James M. Hite
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THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

"Hello!...This is God speaking"

Maybe the reason I so much love to speak to youth is because God loves to speak to me as His son—through His Word.

This Book has been the stabilizing force of my life and for civilizations before me. It has altered the course of history and it deserves our examination and recognition.

The Bible testifies for itself. We might criticize it but it is only because we know too little about its content, its historicity and its impact.

The Bible is more exciting than a detective story, more captivating than a history book, more up to date than the current newspaper and more powerful than the biggest atomic explosion. Generation after generation has been guided by this Way of Truth.

It is the only Book that can really empower you. I am somewhat amused by the number of Christians who read motivational materials for stimulation and direction for success. Young people, this Book can do all of that and more. It can give you success and salvation. What a powerful book.

I hear the Bible criticized frequently. People say that it contains errors, misinterpretations and is peripheral to the modern world.

What a disgrace to discount life's ultimate authority. I challenge you to be the youth of the Word. To know it is eternal life. To reject it is eternal damnation.

It is a tremendous miracle that the Bible continues century after century, meeting the needs of a constantly changing world. How can one Book appeal to every culture, every ethnic group and every level of intelligence? Can you even suggest any other book that has such a universal appeal? Can you suggest one that provides a common ground for fellowship of peoples around the world?

The same Book that undergirded, blessed, encouraged and instructed the persecuted and deprived people of the first century meets the needs of our affluent, technological twentieth century. Most people live fairly comfortably today. This message meets our needs to the ultimate degree.

The basic needs of man have never changed. Externals have changed, but inside us remains the same needs. David's needs, as he watched his flocks on the mountainside were not so different from those of Solomon as he ruled his empire. Every person, in every age, has a deep seated need for God. In this respect there is never change. We are "enlightened" today, but His voice still shouts to us through the Bible to give us direction.

The Word is a treasure. It is our most important possession. Even if all of our other possessions were destroyed, if our Bibles were saved, we would be rich. I have read this book nearly every day for almost all of my life and I learn more about it each time I open its pages. I have preached from the Book hundreds of times and some men have probably done so thousands of times. Yet, the content is inexhaustible.

Can an agnostic or a skeptic produce a book like that? No! Only God can create a book that will survive the rise and fall of nations, the ascending of rulers and the toppling of governments. It has been misinterpreted by fanatics and expertly expounded by intellectuals. It lives on. Century after century it is a lamp to guide the groping foot and a light to illuminate the obscure pathway. It is a standard for our children, a guide, for you, as youth, an inspiration for the middle-aged and a comfort for the elderly. It is food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, rest for the weary, salvation for the

sinner, strength for the Christian. It IS the Word of the living God.

The Bible holds the key to your success...but if you neglect it, you can look forward to failure.

From an unknown writer we quote:

“O traveler from this to yonder world,
Pause in the shade of God’s magnificent
Eternal Word — that tree whose roots are curled
About our human need. When strength is spent,
Stretch out beneath some great, far-reaching limb
Of promise — and find rest and peace in Him.

Let the conclusion of our discussion be this. Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.

Brother Len Wertz

LIVING ONE DAY AT A TIME

Are you living one day at a time? It is the Christian’s responsibility to apply this practice to their lives. Yet, as we fellowship with those who call themselves Christians, it is plain to see this is not a practice in many lives.

II Cor. 4:16, “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.” What does it feel like to experience a renewed heart each day? In the Psalms we can find many examples. We see David rejoicing and giving praise to God, when after sin or some conflict, he had made things right with God. At the close of each day we need to be renewed by clearing our conscience with God.

Daily we need to look at our lives and be sure there is nothing there that would keep us from living a joyous Christian life. Luke 21:34-36, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at anytime your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to

escape all things that shall come to pass, and stand before the Son of Man." When we do not cleanse our hearts daily, or forgive those who trespass against us, or we ignore our shortcomings, or we fail to live by faith the life God has planned for us, our hearts can become overcharged with the things that should have been cared for yesterday, last week, last month or even years ago. Jesus said, "Take heed and pray because these things will come upon you unawares." Oh, how careful we must be that we do not allow such recklessness into our lives. We can only afford to live one day at a time.

We might think these things will not affect our lives, but Christ calls them snares, and Satan's traps. Are you trapped or snared?

James 4:13-14, "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Sometimes we live hoping that time will heal yesterday's problems. James refers to life as "a little time". I do not believe "a little time" will ever heal problems. Only by taking daily inventory of our lives and making wrongs right will there be healing and the removing of problems.

We are also challenged in Hebrews 3:13-15, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." Are we really concerned for our brothers and sisters in the Lord? Have you seen some wrong in a brother's life? Have you given him loving exhortation? It is part of "daily" living. This verse tells me if I do not exhort my brother I will become hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. The flesh finds it much easier to let problems slide, but the Spirit says "Go". Let us exhort one another to live one day at a time, so that together we can truly say we are living a joyous, fulfilled life in Christ. Are YOU living one day at a time?

Brother Denny Myers

WHEN IS JESUS COMING?

Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my father only."

A few years back a preacher that I enjoyed hearing set a date and time for Christ's return. He wrote and published a pamphlet saying that Christ would come back to earth in September 1994. Our text is very clear on this point. Man will not be privy to that time. Only the Father knows.

We know conditions were similar at the time of the flood. In verse 39, our Lord said, "They knew not until the flood came, and took them all away." In verse 42, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Even more positively He states in verse 44, "In such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh." We must search the Word and prepare our hearts for this event, but the date and time no man knows. In verse 50, "The Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for Him."

Shortly before Jesus went back to heaven He said to His followers, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." (Acts 1:7) At the end of the parable of the wise and foolish virgins is written, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 25:13)

It is due to the wisdom of God that the time of His coming is secret. To try to set dates or promote opinions, especially as we reach the year 2000 is unfair, since many could be eyeing that year and Christ could come even tomorrow, or today. We must approach the scriptures with wonder and respect, and with a sense of worship. But we must also be practical. We know Christ is coming again. The scriptures are clear. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Jesus is coming!
We know not how soon,
Coming at midnight,
At morning or noon;
Evening may bring Him
To bear us away;

For Him I am watching
And waiting each day.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

OBITUARIES

MARY O. ROUNDS

Sister Mary Orpha Rounds, 77, of Bridgewater, died Friday, August 22, 1997, at the Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Mary was born on October 23, 1919, in Dayton, Virginia and was a daughter of the late Joseph Roy and Ida (Showalter) Early.

Sis. Rounds was a member of Dayton Dunkard Brethren Church.

She was united in marriage on October 17, 1948, to Albert Nathaniel Rounds who survives.

Surviving in addition to her husband are two sons and daughters-in-law, Nevin Dale and Bonnie (Borenstein) Rounds of Mechanicsville, Virginia, Doyle Lee and Darlene (Burkholder) Rounds of Bridgewater, Virginia; one daughter, Dorcas Marie Rounds of Bridgewater, Virginia; two sisters, Vera Heatwole and Naomi Wenger both of Dayton, Virginia; two brothers, Samuel Early and Byard Early, both of Dayton, Virginia. Two grandchildren, Rachael Sara and Benjamin Joseph Rounds also survive.

A funeral service was conducted at 1:30 P.M. Sunday, August 24, 1997, at the Johnson Funeral Service Chapel in Bridgewater, Virginia. Brother Gene Kauffman and Brother Virgil Leatherman officiated. Burial in the Pleasant View Cemetery in Dayton, Virginia.

WILBUR L. UPLINGER, SR.

Bro. Wilbur L. Uplinger, Sr., 78, of Route 2, Mount Crawford, Virginia died Thursday, January 15, 1998, at the Martinsburg Veterans Administration Center, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Bro. Wilbur L. Uplinger was born June 19, 1919, in Comet, Ohio

and was the son of the late Clarence and Mary (Stark) Uplinger.

He lived in Ohio and Vienna, Virginia before moving to Mount Crawford in 1972. He was a farmer and carpenter. He was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Dayton, Virginia.

On November 24, 1941, he married Sister Thelma (Myers) Uplinger who survives.

Also surviving are five children: Leroy "Lee" Uplinger Jr., North Lima, Ohio, Richard Uplinger, Greer, South Carolina, Jane Lickey, Manassas, Virginia, Carolyn Kay Crounes, Woodbridge, Virginia and Jackie Carr, Lacey Springs, Virginia; two sisters, Lora Keesling, Canton, Ohio and Ila Givler, North Canton, Ohio; one brother, A. C. Uplinger of Michigan; eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Pastor N. Bruce Creswell conducted the funeral services at the Lindsey Harrisonburg Funeral Home. Burial was at Eastlawn Memorial Gardens.

Brother Wilbur Uplinger has gone to be with the Great Physician and is in the hands of the Sympathizing Jesus Christ. He speaks the drooping heart to cheer, where there is No pain, No sorrow, No storms, No dark clouds. We hope he is where sins are all forgiven and the hope of a Crown is fulfilled.

For as Bro. Wilbur was a husband, father, grandfather, and a great-grandfather, and also a brother in Christ, now his work in this old world is done, Heaven offers a better home for him.

One by one our loved ones leave us,
One by one their partings grieve us,
One by one the crowns are given us,
One by one we come to Jesus,
As we heed His gentle voice,
One by one we His vineyard enter,
There to labor and rejoice,
One by one we all are going,
Down the pathway steep and straight;
Ah, the joy there is in knowing,
We shall meet beyond Heaven's gate.

MEETING NOTICES

March 1-8 - Bethel, Pennsylvania Revival.

March 13-22 - Pleasant Ridge, Ohio Revival.

March 15-22 - Dallas Center, Iowa Revival.

March 27-April 5 - Lititz, Pennsylvania Revival.

April 3-4 - Second District Meeting, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio.

April 5-12 - Plevna, Indiana Revival.

April 11 - First District Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania.

April 11 - Third District Meeting, Quinter, Kansas.

April 10-12 - Fourth District Meeting, Pleasant Home, California.

LOVEFEAST NOTICES

March 21 - Pleasant Ridge, Ohio.

March 21 - Dallas Center, Iowa.

March 28 - Hart, Michigan.

April 11 - Plevna, Indiana.

April 11 - Quinter, Kansas.

April 11 - Pleasant Home, California.

April 25 - Grandview, Missouri.

April 25 - West Fulton, Ohio.

April 26 - Bethel, Pennsylvania.

May 3 - Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

May 16 - Dayton, Virginia.

May 17 - Lititz, Pennsylvania.

May 24 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania.

NEWS ITEMS

1998 GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 6-10, 1998

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held at the Memorial Holiness Camp, West Milton, Ohio, June 6 through June 10,

1998. More information will be given later.

Please send reservations to:

Brother Don Hostetler
8483 Arcanum-Bears Mill Rd.
Greenville, OH 45331

Brother Paul L. Stump
Arrangements Committee

NOTICE

All business for General Conference should be in my hands no later than April 15, 1998. Thank you.

General Conference Writing Clerk,

Brother Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356-9782
(717) 246-9193

CORRECTION

Inadvertently Brethren Ted Kreiner and Steve Heisey were left off the Deacon's List in the February 1998 issue. The Editor is sorry for this omission.

HART, MICHIGAN

The Maple Valley Christian School is seeking a teacher for the 1998-99 school year. Anyone interested please contact Bro. Ray Powell, 1920 N. 116th Ave., Hart, MI 49420, (616) 873-3756, by the end of March 1998.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation will have revival meetings with Bro. Jason Reed, March 13 through March 22, 1998. Lovefeast will be Saturday, March 21, at 7:00 P.M.

We invite all to come worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center, Iowa congregation will hold a revival meeting starting Sunday, March 15. Bro. Edward Johnson will bring the Word. Lovefeast services will close the meetings March

21 and 22. Come and worship with us and pray for the meetings.

Sister Mary Sue Moss, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation invites all to their Spring Revival, April 5-12, 1998. Bro. Wayne Burgess of Hasty, Colorado will be our Evangelist.

Lovefeast Services will be April 11 at 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.

We invite you to these services and ask for your prayers.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Lord willing, the Fourth District Meeting will be held the weekend of April 10 through 12. There will be a preaching service on Friday evening.

The Business Meeting will be held on Saturday morning, with our Lovefeast in the evening.

Sunday morning there will be an Easter Sunrise Service, followed by our regular services.

We extend a hearty welcome to all who can come and enjoy the fellowship and blessings with us.

Sister Blanche Newman, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation will have our Spring Revival, April 12-19. Bro. Ray Stuber will be our evangelist. Pray, come and worship with us. We are glad to announce we elected two deacons, Bro. Justin Beck and Bro. Jeff Aungst. Pray that we ALL let the Holy Spirit lead and live for Christ and His Church

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1998

April 5 - Up, Sanctify The People - Joshua 7:13-18.

1. Why could not Israel stand before her enemies?
2. How was Joshua able to know Achan was the one who had sinned?

April 12 - RESURRECTION - Luke 24:1-35.

1. Who were the two men in shining garments?
2. Why did Peter go to the sepulchre?

April 19 - Achan's Confession - Joshua 7:19-26.

1. Thoroughly explain the seriousness of Achan's sin.
2. Why were Achan's family and possessions destroyed along with him?

April 26 - Sincerity - Psa. 32:2, I Cor. 10:31, II Cor. 1:12, I Peter 2:21-23.

1. How is it possible to do all things to the glory of God?
2. Define Godly sincerity.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1998

April 5 - Passport Of Life-Prov. 12:15-28, Ez. 33:14-19, Luke 10:25-28.

1. What is the passport to life?
2. What is the importance of love in the passport of life?

April 12 - THE RESURRECTION - Mark 16:1-20.

1. Why did Jesus return to Galilee after His resurrection?
2. What signs follow in the life of a believer today?

April 19 - The Christian's Race - I Cor. 9:24-27, Ph. 3:13-14, Heb. 12:1-2, II Tim. 4:7-8.

1. What is the prize we should be running to obtain in the race of life?
2. What is the importance of running the race of life with patience?

April 26 - Sins Of Youth - Job 13:26, Psalms 25:1-22, Jer. 3:23-25.

1. How do the sins of youth affect our lives as we become adults?
2. What is the remedy for the sins of youth?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
--	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED

Alas! and did my Savior bleed?

And did my Sov'reign die?

Would He devote that sacred head

For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I have done

He groaned upon the tree?

Amazing pity! grace unknown!

And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,

And shut his glories in,

When God's own Son was crucified

For man, the creature's sin.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay

The debt of love I owe,

Here Lord, I give myself away;

'Tis all that I can do.

-Isaac Watts

A MOUNT AND A HILL

There have been thousands, if not millions, of sermons preached since Jesus' ministry. Men have proclaimed the Gospel in many ways. Some have done it to entertain, others to promote themselves and others with a sincere desire to introduce others to the message of salvation. Sermons are presented in various forms. Some cover a subject as it is presented throughout the Bible, others are a thorough study of a short passage of scripture. Some sermons are entertaining, others are dry and dull. Some concern future events, others present a discerning study of past events. Some are directed towards children, while others are so scholarly that few can understand what is presented. Some develop great truths through a logical progression of thoughtfulness and reason. Others are unorganized and appeal to the emotions of the hearers. Some sermons challenge those who hear to action, either individually or socially. Some sermons present Biblical facts that strengthen the hearer's faith.

Although sermons may vary, they still remain God's ordained method of spreading the Gospel. Although the Apostle Paul spoke of the foolishness of preaching, preaching is approved of God. A well-reasoned and valuable sermon is often undermined not by the perception of it as being foolish, but that the life of the speaker does not show that sermon in action. Other methods of presenting the Gospel have been tried, but none have been sanctioned by God.

Obviously, the greatest of all sermons ever preached is the

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Sermon on the Mount. It is great not only for the arrangement of its words. It is great not only because it was delivered on the side of a mountain by Jesus, the Son of God. It is great not only for its lofty thoughts and admonitions. It is great because Jesus not only spoke these hallowed words and thoughts, but He put them into practice in His life and death.

Jesus could translate the words spoken on that mountainside into the deeds and attitudes that transpired on Calvary's hill. He practiced what He had preached. The unholy judgment, scourging, crucifixion and humiliation that He suffered might have adversely affected His Spiritual response if He had not been about His Father's business.

His greatest sermon was not merely in the words that He spoke, but in what He accomplished for them, and us, before Pilate, on the Cross, in the tomb and in His resurrection. He put the Sermon on the Mount into action. It became a living epistle written on the hearts of men.

There would be many connections between the words that He spoke and the deeds that He did. The attitudes that He promoted in the Sermon on the Mount, He lived during His passion.

He spoke of loving one's enemies. This is not the natural tendency of humans. They love those whom they like, but not their enemies. Jesus had every human reason to strike out at his accusers, even to destroy them. Instead, He forgave them. He realized their ignorance. They could not know the full implication of their rejection and crucifixion of the Son of God. They could realize, however, their lack of common civility and fairness. Even in His death pains, He could offer forgiveness.

His love was not based on their love toward Him. His love was not a reward for their goodness to Him. His love was offered in spite of the way they had treated Him. They wished Him ill, but He returned good for their ill-will.

He could have defended Himself before the Sanhedren and Pilate. He could have called upon Heaven's angels to deliver Him from His punishment. He could have come down from the cross, but He did not. He turned the other cheek. He was nonresistant to all the evil that they could devise against Him. Their cruelty only

brought forth the sweetness of His love.

He came to do His Father's will. He carried out the great love message of God to mankind. He chose not to escape tasting the cup of suffering that was necessary to establish the Father's Plan of Salvation. He had a single purpose. He accomplished that purpose.

The words that He spoke were not empty words, for He fulfilled them in His passion. His sermon was not empty words, but the words of life, because He would by His death and resurrection bring life to those who would accept what He had done for fallen humanity.

Have you heard His sermon, not only in words, but in His actions on the hill far away? Are love, forgiveness, nonresistance, and doing your Heavenly Father's will as important to you as it was to Him? Do you practice what you preach?

M.C.Cook

WWJD?

WWJD, an abbreviation for, What Would Jesus Do?, is currently a popular motto displayed on T-shirts and other items in the "Christian" apparel marketplace. Whether Jesus is pleased with this external display is a question to be considered. We do know that HE discerns the thoughts and intents of our hearts.

In Charles Sheldon's classic book, "In His Steps", the heart searching question: "What Would Jesus Do?" is the central theme from which WWJD was derived. In his book amazing changes took place within the church when this question was taken to heart and practically applied in life's complex situations.

As Christians, we may feel overwhelmed at times by the needs about us. Where would Jesus have us minister for Him? James 1:27 certainly gives us a good place to begin. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

We are surrounded, I believe, by the fatherless in ever increasing numbers. With the breakdown of the home in our society, many

children and young people have grown to adulthood without ever experiencing a father's love and influence in their lives. May it be our hearts desire to introduce them to a FATHER that loves them, "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation." Psalms 68:5.

As Bible believing Christians, we would readily give our blessing to anyone desiring "pure religion" and an undefiled life before God. How is it then, that the second practical application of the spiritual walk, the visitation of widows, is so easily neglected? I believe it is because we so often are preoccupied with our own interests that Galatians 6:2 is more of an ideal than a reality. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." The LORD, speaking through James, considers the plight of widows an affliction. Do we?

James concludes his thoughts on pure religion with this admonition: "to keep yourself unspotted from the world." Similar thoughts to unspotted are: unstained, not polluted by, and uncontaminated. It is so easy for worldly mannerisms, values, and desires to gain a foothold in the life of a Christian. The need for daily Bible reading and prayer cannot be overemphasized. Self-examination is also a very integral part of the unspotted life. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Psalms 119:9. Our Savior, the Lamb of God, exemplified the unspotted life by doing the will of His Father. As God reveals to us the needs of others, may we seriously consider: "What Would Jesus Do?"

Brother Marvin Lorenz

WASH ME

"Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." Psalm 51:2.

We as a church, as well as individually, must take a stand against sin. Sin is an abomination to God. He does not look upon sin. He CANNOT look upon sin.

We are promised in the scriptures that God will cleanse us. Jeremiah 33:8, "And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities,

whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me." Ezekiel 36:25 states, "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you." The significance of the water of cleansing indicates that God operates upon our souls. It is not enough that we "reform" ourselves; we must be "transformed by the washing of water by the word." John 3:5 says, "...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."

God's standard for man is perfection. We must strive for it, though we will not attain it in this life. Jesus died as a substitute for us. The punishment for our sins had to be paid. Christ's work therefore is to justify us: to give us a clean slate. His work, coupled with the working of the Holy Ghost in our life will cause us to live for Him. Our obedience to the Word of God will be counted unto us for righteousness. We have no righteousness in ourselves. We must look to God, and follow Him. It was said of Abraham that he believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. The cry of the Psalm writer is "wash me."

Study the scriptures and you will find that no one can approach the Holy God with sin in their life. Someone has to mediate, or close the gap, between God and man. This has already been done in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 3:7, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again."

God continues to hate sin, but He has made a way to wash us clean, and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 9:28 says, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Rd.
Newmanstown, PA 17073

RESPECT AND MANNERS

Respect in America today seems to be an old thing of the past. Authority is looked down upon, parents are scoffed at and "Me" is king. Have these attitudes seeped into the church? I fear they have to some degree. God commands us to respect authority, parents,

and others.

The Bible is to be respected. The way we handle it, what we say about it and the way we read it all indicate our respect for it. Do we put it on the floor, stack papers and books upon it, or disregard its pages? We believe God expects us to respect it for what it is, God's Holy Living Word.

Romans 13:1-2 clearly states our actions and words toward civil authorities should be respectful. Are the speeds we drive, the numbers we report on our tax return, and our general attitude toward civil law showing honor and respect to our civil authority?

Our church leaders are also to be respected. I have heard it said, "Respect must be earned." This is true in one respect but God commands us to respect the office (I Thess. 5:12-13 and I Tim. 5:17). Respect of our church leaders goes deeper than just saying good things (or not saying bad things) about them. Encouragement and prayer are elements of respect.

We are also commanded to respect our parents (Matt. 13:57). It grieves my heart to hear children (big and small) call their parents by their first name. Obedience and honesty are a couple of ways to respect our parents.

Another area of respect that seems lacking in society today is respect of age. Lev. 19:32 reads, "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord." Are we teaching our children to jump up and let the older people have our seat in a full waiting room? Are we letting the older Brethren go first at our fellowship dinners? Are we seeking counsel from the aged and wise or from our own peers? Remember Rehoboam? He sought the counsel of the old men but rejected it. Let's seek and heed (respect) the advice of our wise old Brethren.

I also believe scripture implies we should respect ourselves. The delicate line between self-respect and pride must be guarded against and prayerfully sought and maintained. We do need to believe that we can be useful to God in His Kingdom.

Manners - are they completely out of style? I find myself failing to use the simple words, "thank-you," "please," and "I'm sorry" often enough.

In the land of plenty where we live, I wonder if we have not come to a place where we take our blessings for granted. One needs to be grateful before the Thanks can be expressed.

Manners are those little things that leave a big impression on the people we are around. Manners should not be reserved for special people but should be practiced in the family as well. If all Americans could learn the two words, "please" and "thank-you", think what a difference it would make. What about our family or yours? We cannot change America or the World but we can ask God to help us and our families.

One encouraging note about respect and manners is that it will not cost us one dollar to implement them in our lives!

Practice and, perhaps, a change of attitude is all it will cost. God Bless you as you live for Him.

Humbly submitted,
Brother Dennis Meyers

JESUS, OUR LIVING SAVIOUR

As we write this Message of Assurance, war clouds loom ominously over the Middle East; record rainfalls, violent storms and tornadoes are buffeting the United States. The moral fibers of the developed countries of the world are in shreds. Greed and earthly riches and pleasures are the obsessions of mankind. The booming United States stockmarket and economy have blinded the eyes of the American people to moral uprightness and human decency, let alone to seeing the warnings of God's Holy Word.

The World Wide Web and space age technology are again rearing the Tower of Babel. God will soon put a stop to Satan's forces. Any computer having Internet and/or world wide web connections is a Pandora's box full of the wiles of the devil. International communications interpreted into our own language is at our fingertips. Pride and the wisdom of this present world are rushing man headlong into the judgments of God!

Where is the Salt of the Earth? Where is the Light of the World? Where is the Love of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ? "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso-

ever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God...And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 5:1-2,5. Read the entire chapter. Jesus died for us to wash away our sins and reconcile us to God. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all who believe be made alive. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23.

"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thess. 5:8-9. The light of the world is Jesus. We, who believe, are His reflectors and witnesses through the power of the Holy Ghost. The passion for the lost should move us to keep ourselves in the love of God, that we may reach out and snatch them from the burning. The time is short. Let us support the Missions of the Church with zeal as the Lord has prospered us. The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." II Cor. 9:15. Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine. Let us introduce Him to Whosoever Will that they may have that Blessed Assurance too.

Humbly submitted
Brother Ray R. Reed

KENYA KNOTES

Sunday, February 15, we spent the day at the church in Ortum. "We" includes myself, Terry, William, Matthew, Bishop Andrew, his wife Catherine, Hosea, his wife Florence, Saline and Rose.

Enroute we picked up James, another minister. He was riding on top of a public service vehicle. That is a taxi made out of a small pick-up, usually a Peugeot. The bed is fitted with bench seats and a four foot tall metal shell with windows and rear door. Eight to twelve people can fit inside plus six more on the back bumper plus six or so on top, depending on the amount of luggage. These taxis

transport people from town to town over any type of road. It was on top of one of these small taxi-trucks that we found James. He is one of the English preaching interpreters.

Once at Ortum, we quickly assembled at the church for Sunday School. Sunday School is normally teaching by one of the ministers on a specific topic to just one class. I was invited to bring the lesson, so I shared a study on being sealed by the Spirit. It was very well received. Next Brother Hosea was chosen to bring the message for church. He began by asking every individual down the row what they had learned in Sunday School! These Kenyans are bold! But it did set fast the lessons from God's Word.

After services, six families and individuals that were lacking, received a Swahili Bible. Also, everyone was treated to a meal of chepati (frybread), rice, beans and pork, bread and boiled cabbage prepared beforehand by Florence and Terry.

After dinner Terry instructed the women on dress, coverings, hygiene and nutrition. In an effort to help improve nutritional intake, she distributed packages of twelve assorted garden seeds. One goal being that seed would be saved from the produce for the next season. Hosea did not know about this plan when he preached on the sowing of the seed earlier that morning. It is great to see the working of God in individuals producing harmony. I met with the men and Hosea spoke on Dunkard doctrine and persuaded commitments from all present to adhere to it. Questions were fielded and answered. Officers were elected. Polity books and tracts were distributed and received eagerly.

Discussion was also had on improving the meeting house. Currently they meet in a 12x12 brick room with open doors and windows and dirt floor. They want to move to a larger room on the other end of the row that still needs a roof finished. No conclusions were reached but many ideas discussed.

From my perspective, a very good day. Forty people were fed physically and spiritually. Seed was given for the season and for eternity. Commitments were made, the body strengthened. Buana Asifiwe! (Praise the Lord!)

God's Peace
Brother Tim Scofield
Makutano, Kenya

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We get so many letters from everyone back home. We appreciate your letters so very much. In your letters you ask so many questions, we decided to try and answer the most often asked questions in the Bible Monitor.

Climate - About the same as our home in Colorado. We are at the same elevation. The land is some of the most beautiful God has created. Days can be warm high 80's low 90's, but not humid. Nights are cool.

School - Yes, we are continuing our homeschooling, even though the boys feel being in Africa is schooling enough.

Food - We do not have the variety of foods we had in the States. We eat alot of rice, potatoes, beans, eggs, bread, canned tuna, canned corned beef, cabbage, and several kinds of fruit. If you have any recipes.

Language - Maybe half of the people speak some English. The other half speak only Kiswahille. We are trying to learn Kiswahille, but it is coming poli-poli (slowly-slowly).

Phone - Yes! We have a phone. It seldom rings. When it does ring it is usually a wrong number. Regardless, we all come running when the phone rings. It may be someone from home!

Culture - Learning the ways of the people here can be a challenge. It is a bit like living in the early 1900's with reminders that it is really the late 1900's. Everyone and everything moves very slowly.

People - People are people, the world over. They laugh, they cry, they sing praises to their Lord. They work, they eat (?), they enjoy having fun. We enjoy the people here. We can see the hand of God at work here. We are not blind though. Satan also has work here. Pray for the people.

First Impression of Africa - When we got off the plane in Uganda, it was so humid. We were ready to get back on the plane. We must have heard God wrong. He was not saying go to Africa. The smell of fish from Lake Victoria was so strong. Our baggage was still in the States. We couldn't understand anyone and they couldn't understand us. Faces from home never looked

so good! After one week in Africa we knew more than ever, that God wanted us here. We strongly feel His hand upon us. He has given us a love for the country and the people.

Homesickness - What is that? We seldom have a moment alone, or sit still long enough to think of home. When it does come, however, is when we write letters or receive letters. Then the tears flow. We love hearing from home.

House - We have a very nice house. Still no electricity or indoor plumbing. We do have running cold water, a good kerosene lamp, and a very nice breeze through the house.

Water - The Grandview Church bought a water purifier for the mission here. Thank you again to them for the wonderful gift. We have pure water and do not have to worry about illness due to water.

Thank you again for all your letters. They mean so much to us. Thank you also for the many prayers offered on our behalf. It gives us strength each day to know the Saints are lifting us up before our Heavenly Father. God bless you all.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Brother Tim, Sister Terry,
Brother William and Brother Matthew

MOVING DAY

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Hebrews 6:10.

Greetings from Kenya in the love of our Lord and Saviour. It is moving day fro Bro. Gilbert and his wife Alice. A week ago we moved Gilbert and a few belongings to Makutano. He left Alice behind, in Kitale, while he would look for a place for them to rent here in Makutano. Gilbert stayed with Bro. Andrew and his wife Katherine and their family while here. Bro. Gilbert is one of the ministers here at our church in Makutano. He would come by public transportation to church at Kakutano every Sunday. This is a thirty minute ride. Travel here is not so easy and you must pay a fee to ride. We know he is very dedicated to the Lord's work.

Today we all rejoice, as Gilbert has found a new home and he

has a job. He has told Alice, we will come today and she is packed and waiting.

As we pull onto the dirt road that leads to their home, Gilbert's sister and mother come out to the road to greet us, followed by many children. Everyone is greeted and we all head to the house to load their belongings. Everyone helped, even the small children. They lived in a one room house about twelve foot square. It probably took a whole half hour to load all their belongings. The sofa, two chairs and the mattress for their bed all went on top of the van. The rest of the bed frame and all their belongings went inside the van.

Alice climbed into the van while the men finished tying on the furniture. Her sister was speaking to her through the window. They smiled at each other and gave hugs. As her sister left, I asked Alice if it was hard to leave her home and family. She shook her head. You could see she was having a hard time fighting the tears. The men climbed in. All is loaded, including the seven people that would ride back to Makutano. Last good-byes are said to all the family and to Gilbert's Mother. One little boy runs beside the van waving, until he was just too tired to continue. I turned to Gilbert, "Is it hard to leave your home?" "Yes, but it is for the work of God," and they both have big smiles. Their child will stay with the Grandmother until they can return for her. My heart goes out to this young couple. They love their Lord and are willing to serve Him, no matter the cost.

We arrive at their new home and help them unload. They are happy to now live close to the church. They feel the Lord has richly blessed them. Their new home has two rooms plus a kitchen. After we unload their belongings, we all bow our heads and ask God to bless their home and strengthen them for His service.

A fellow servant,
Brother Tim Scofield

THE LETTER

A man received a letter

From a church just down the street

It said, "We'll make you rich

If you come to church for meet."

The man just took the letter
And fed it to the flames
He said, "This church is of Satan
And I won't play those games."
That night the man got a visit
From the Son of the Morning Star
He said, "Give me my letter
And you I will not mar."
The man said, "I do not have it
I cast it to the fire."
So the Devil picked up the man's Bible
And said, "I'll go just as far."
But the Word it would not burn
Though the flames licked at it's cover
Lucifer dropped the book
And left the man forever.

This poem was written about a real incident that happened to Brother Hosea. The only difference is that Hosea's trouble lasted much longer. Satan and his followers are alive and well in Kenya.

Brother William Scofield

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

"NO FEAR!"

We have all been afraid at times. It is a reaction and emotion that is not confined to children. All of us need encouragement and I think it is especially necessary to have help in overcoming fear in the teen years when our imaginations are working at their peak performance.

Fear is one of our dominant emotions. George Bernard Shaw said, "In this world there is always danger for those who are afraid of it." He was saying that most fears are imaginary. We tend to create fears in our mind. As Rudyard Kipling said, "Of all the liars in the world, sometimes the worst are your own fears."

Fear must be mastered and conquered. Only God can help us

do this. He will allow us to win over these paralyzing emotions. It is definitely a frightening and dangerous world we live in. Speeding automobiles, madmen who are controlled by Satan who care only about our wallets, evil men who ravish innocent children and old people, keep alive our healthy fears.

Even the Bible acknowledges that we are living in a dangerous world. It tells of a time — possibly this time, when there would be great distress and perplexity of nations. What we see today are real dangers, not imaginary. Fears many times lead people to all of the phobias that are experienced today.

But in the Bible, we read "FEAR NOT". Sixty three times in the Old Testament and sixteen times in the New. God has not given us the spirit of fear. It engenders distrust in the Bible and places a barrier in our fellowship with Christ. It devitalizes us spiritually. God does not want His people "running scared." He wants us to understand His sovereignty and live with victory. He wants us to leave the driving to Him and let Him control our destiny. He has us in His hands.

Understand that fear is not always our enemy. It leads to precautionary or preventative measures that are positive in life. They just must not control us. They even help us to put our trust more fully in the Master. Jesus wanted His disciples to be so controlled that even the end time's events would not make them fear but rather would cause them to "Lift up their heads, for their redemption is drawing nigh."

The Bible says "Fear no evil." Why? Because "God is with us!" We must have a healthy respect of Satan and his power but we must also understand that "Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world."

We are not to fear illness. God teaches us many lessons through some of the illnesses we experience, not the least of which is His sufficiency.

God has also promised that "All things" work for our good as we are called according to His purpose. We need not fear trouble that seems to be all around us.

Finally, we do not need to fear death. Why? Because Jesus conquered death for each of us. As a believer, God's promise of

eternal life allows us to face this experience unafraid.

Ultimately, the fear of God allows all of our other fears to vanish. In Him, there need be "NO FEAR."

Brother Len Wertz

BITTERNESS

Mid the clamor and the turmoil,
When the world would have its way.
Tap indwelling well of quietness
That will feed me through the day.

Be my source of inspiration;
Be my inner poise and calm;
At the altar of my being
Send sweet harmonies of balm.

When I feel distraught and burdened
And there seems no listening ear,
Filter through my veins the order,
That controls and conquers fear.

When annoy disrupts the silence,
And confusion prompts dismay,
Let my spirit rise to meet Thee,
On the strains of peace, I pray.

-Roxie Lusk Smith

As we have been preaching on this subject in churches where we have visited, as well as our home church, I will explain how we have come to expound on this subject.

First a visiting minister preached a sermon, exhorting us to be prepared if we are called upon to suffer persecution for our faith. That same week in our Bible Study the question was asked, "How could Stephen pray, Lay not this sin to their charge, at the very

moment they were stoning him to death." That same week we read an article in the Readers Digest of a family who were imprisoned by the Japanese during World War II. The father was taken to prison and died there. The three daughters were taken to a prison camp, and they never knew, until after the war where their mother was. After the war the mother and daughters were reunited. The mother told the daughters the last thing their father said to her as he was led away to prison was this, "Whatever happens, don't feel bitter. Bitterness will destroy you." The same week we read in the paper of three hundred who were massacred in Algeria. (There have been many other instances we hear about, of the persecution of Christians.)

Eph. 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Heb. 12:12-15, "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

Please read Matt. 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-38, Rom. 12:14-21 and I Thess. 5:15. It is no easy task to carry out the exhortation of these scriptures, but it is absolutely necessary if we are to please the Lord. It is contrary to the carnal nature.

Tis a little journey This we walk
Hardly time for murmurs Time for talk
Yet we learn to quarrel, And to hate
Afterward regret it, When too late
Now and then tis sunshine, Some times dark
Sometimes care and sorrow Leave their mark
Yet we walk the pathway, Side by Side
Where so many others Lived and died.
We can see the moral, Understand

Yet we walk not always, Hand in hand
Why must there be hatred? Greed and strife?
Do we need such shadows, Here in life?

It is imperative that we pray for those whom we dislike, and that we pray that they may be blest, and not to pray for our own benefit.

A man who was having a very difficult time with his boss, prayed that the Lord would get him out of his hair. There were no results, but when he began to pray that the Lord would bless his boss, their relationship improved dramatically.

We pray for the church and for our families and friends, but we see churches destroyed, families torn apart, and friends alienated by bitterness.

James 3:14-18, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." Gal. 5:14-15, "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

When the Sultan of Turkey decreed that all Christians should be destroyed, a young Armenian girl saw all her family brutally murdered, and she was taken by the officer in charge to be his. The next few days were filled with misery and shame. She was dragged from place to place like an animal. One night when they were in a drunken sleep, she awoke, and rushed from the camp. She ran and ran until exhausted, she collapsed and awoke in a British Red Cross Hospital. Having no place to go she stayed and worked, taking the most onerous tasks. One night she came on duty tending each patient gently, and praying for them. Then the flickering light from her lamp fell on the face of a new patient. There was no mistaking that cruel face. It was the officer of her experience of horror. For a moment she felt nothing, but seething hate. Vengeance would be easy. The least inattention would bring about his

death. Then the tension left her and tears flooded her eyes. You died for him, too, didn't you Lord? She lavished unbelievable care on the wounded man, and almost single handedly pulled him back from the grave. She never told anyone what had happened in the past. She was not there when he first regained consciousness, but the nurses told him what she had done for him. When she came on duty that night he started to thank her, but he stopped when she turned the light upon her face. For a long minute there was silence, then he turned his face to the pillow and began to sob. Why didn't you let me die? I don't deserve to live. Her answer was, "Because I am a Christian, with us love cannot make any exceptions." Because her amazing love had broken his resistance, he became an earnest student of the Gospel, and before he left the hospital he had exchanged the crescent on his shoulder for Christ in his heart.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

This is the prayer of your unworthy servant. That we may grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. That His love in our hearts may abound more and more. That our faith may increase day by day, and that we have the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Brother William Carpenter

THERE WILL BE NO BRONZE IN HEAVEN

The impersonal bleary voice went on unabated, as it read the principal items of the first items of the first news bulletin of the day. It did not realize that like a double edged sword, every word it uttered, cut right through the muscle of my heart painfully. I wanted to switch off the little radio clock but could not because it acts as my wake up call, and thought that perhaps the voice would realize it had made a mistake and correct it as it went along.

Unfortunately it was not a mistake. As it read the body of the news the voice confirmed its earlier pronouncement "one gold, two silver, and one bronze, position thirty-eight globally, eighth, in the continent of Africa". That was Kenya in the concluded Olympics that year. I was thoroughly disappointed.

I have since Kipchoge Keino's day in Tokyo, prided myself on the performance of my country men and women. I am not athletic and would be hard pressed to run a stretch to save my life. But standing on the glories of my country I have on several occasions held my own in discussions with sports analysts when it comes to athletics and specifically Kenyan's PERFORMANCE in world events. This time round, my Olympic hope which was built on nothing less than Kenya's performance on the track events, came tumbling down. I have now come to terms with the fact that Kenya did not hold the leading position in the continent of Africa nor did she beat the day-lights out of the whole world in track events. I had in my vain imagination, forecast at least fifteen gold, ten silver and about twenty bronze! One thing I have not forgiven myself for though, is that I missed the presentation of the gold medal - the only time that our National Anthem was played! That is now behind us and every time I think of the Atlanta games, I try my best to look at the bright side of things. We won a gold, two silver and a bronze. Some nations received absolutely nothing. Bravo Kenya! We as a nation were able to send quite a large number of athletes and a large continent of officials! Our athletes were all able to finish the events they had entered. Our sister country Nigeria did us proud in football.

My brothers and sisters, the kingdom of Heaven is totally different. Proverbs 18:10 tells us that, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth unto it, and is safe." Nevertheless,

Ecclesiastes 9:11 records that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding nor yet favor to men of skill but time and chance happeneth to them all.

Therefore the Christian's walk is not unlike the Olympics. Sometimes one brings home nothing but pure gold medals. A ministry that is growing by leaps and bounds. A mission that bears fruit a hundred fold. One may be experiencing a peak in his or her Christian walk. A life that is exemplary and a testimony of a vibrant Christian witness.

At other times when one obeys the Lord and keeps His Word, material blessings are showered upon him. Children doing well in school, career prospects rising from one height to another, a business thrilling beyond one's wildest dreams and the crop of the land doing well. Biblically the Lord blesses everything the righteous touches.

Sometimes things go terribly wrong. However much one tries, the best they are able to achieve is a rusty lackluster bronze. Prayer seems to avail little if anything. Heaven seems to be deaf to one's cry for help. One begins to doubt, and rightly so whether one is in the right calling.

You may be a minister or a preacher who has moved thousands and brought many sheaves into the kingdom expecting to shine in Heaven like a star. Suddenly you discover that you have lost the magic, no more cutting edge. In fact, every word that proceeds from your mouth does not return void. It sends your listeners into deep slumber. And properly into the captivity of the known enemy - Satan.

Sometimes the worst happens. A rumour, a whisper, a little gossip here and there. Before you know what is happening, there is a full blown scandal enough to make a believer throw away his or her Bible. Innocent or not, a scandal has a disastrous and traumatic effect on a Christian. It takes the Lord God, courage and confidence in an unchanging God to keep one's head high, once one's name has been dragged into mud no matter the circumstances.

What do we do? Where does a Christian run to if all he can bring home is a bronze at best and at worst nothing at all. Does he

opt out of the race? Does he look for greener pasture in the enemy territory? Does he throw in the towel and say enough is enough? Is it worthwhile to plod on when Heaven seems far away and unreachable? Non-existent? An elusive mirage?

Paul the stalwart of the faith had a bronze experience during one of his missionary journeys. He brings this out very well in his letter to the Christians in Phillipi. At the time of writing this letter, Paul was in prison. As if it was not humiliating enough for him to be jailed for cause of the gospel, it was a time that he was going through intense opposition from those who should have supported him, fellow Christians, workers, colleagues and brethren. Perhaps Paul could just have managed this betrayal by the brethren if a worse blow was not dealt him. At the material time, a wake of false doctrine swept the church that he had painstakingly planted in this European province of Macedonian.

What a scenario? What a traumatic experience? For a man of God? One would have expected Paul to give up or in righteous anger to give the sharp edge of his tongue to the Philippians. Paul was dishonoured, humiliated and rejected completely. Maybe this is why he said that "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21. After all, in another setting, he did not spare the degenerate Corinthians. Not so this time Paul's enthusiasm for the gospel, and the kind loving Church in Philippi did not wake. His confidence was in a power higher than the circumstances feeling him. He knew that Christ had a reason for winning him to Himself. Paul knew the goal for which he was striving. He was determined to make people forget and reach it, and best of all, he was willing to do everything in his power to enable others to reach it. What a testimony of a man who was determined to make people like Paul Stump and Rudy Shaffer, Timothy Scofield, Verling Wolfe and others like them, disciples for the Kingdom of Heaven. In Philippians 3:12-14, Paul encourages the struggling church. "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

And strike he did, we read of all sorts of experiences in his many epistles. God who is ever faithful, honored Paul's efforts. When the end came for Paul, he knew that in the strength that Christ gave him, he had made it. He confirms this in his farewell to young Timothy as contained in II Timothy 4:7-8. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Is it not gratifying to note that if we run the race to the very end we shall win a prize? Is it not encouraging to know that God knows our human weaknesses and understands us? Is it not inspiring to know that all that matters is not our position in the race but rather the trusting in Him who called us. We must keep at it until we finish.

For those who like me cannot hold their own in any athletic feat, is it not gratifying to know that there will be no distinction between positions in Heaven?

The Bible says that we shall all get a crown, a golden one. Not a silver, not a bronze. A pure golden crown, and as we all stand before the King, our heavenly anthem will be played. It will not be to the glory of an earthly leader, government or state. It will be "Hallelujah" to the Lamb, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, who was slain and shed His blood in order that He may reconcile us to God.

May God bless you all.

Brother James Musumba
P.O. Box 616
Kapenguria, Kenya (EA.)

UNHOLY ALLIANCES

Luke 23:12, "And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves."

One of the greatest points of confusion within Christendom is the difference between respect for those within the Christian faith who differ in interpretation and methods and the ecumenical movement.

In this study we find that both Pilate and Herod found the Lord

Jesus Christ innocent of any crime. Yet, neither was willing to absolve Him of guilt. While holding political authority over the Jews, they, nonetheless, desired popular approval from the people.

We can reasonably assume that both Pilate and Herod had heard about Jesus before and were aware that He was more than an ordinary man, according to reports. We can be absolutely certain that this was true of Herod for we read in the eighth verse of this chapter, "And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him."

Strangely enough, Pilate and Herod have several things in common with the modern ecumenical movement. First, we find that a friendship was formed because of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ where before there had been enmity between them. The modern ecumenical movement uses the Lord Jesus Christ as a point of unity. They rightly declare that it is the will of the Lord for all Christians to be One.

Secondly, we find that Pilate and Herod desired the approval of the people. The modern ecumenical movement desires to be all things to all people. They rightly teach that the Lord Jesus Christ joins us together as one body.

A third point for our consideration was that both Pilate and Herod found Jesus Christ innocent of any crime. The modern ecumenical movement correctly teaches that Jesus Christ is superior to any other individual who ever walked the earth.

The problem with Pilate and Herod and the modern ecumenical movement is that they both do not go far enough in their understanding. It was wonderful that a long held animosity was reconciled between Pilate and Herod. But the reconciliation did not bring about a desire for truth and righteousness. A large percentage of the ecumenical movement believes and teaches that truth is relevant only as understood by various opinions. In other words there is no such thing as absolute truth. Therefore they believe that no final statement can be made on such issues as abortion and homosexuality, along with other social issues with religious significance.

It was not entirely wrong for Pilate and Herod to desire to hear

the opinions of those over whom they ruled. But it was wrong to allow the people to condemn an innocent individual when the evidence proved otherwise. The modern ecumenical movement goes beyond a desire to hear what others are saying. They are willing to compromise the truth of Holy Scripture to accommodate the desires of the multitudes.

The greatest error of Pilate and Herod was that they did not recognize Jesus Christ for who He really was. This is also true of a large percentage within the ecumenical movement. Most of them would agree that Jesus Christ is superior to other religious leaders. All of them would agree that He is A way to Heaven. But very few of them would affirm that Jesus Christ is THE (only) WAY, THE (only) TRUTH and THE (only) LIFE. The vast majority of these individuals believe and teach that Jesus Christ is A son of God.. They also teach that all mankind is the sons and daughters of God. Very few within the ecumenical movement would describe Jesus Christ as THE (only begotten) Son of God. Fewer yet would recognize Him as God the Son.

It is the desire of the Lord Jesus Christ that there be reconciliation between people. It is His desire that we be one. But this must be founded on the truth of Holy Scripture. Pilate and Herod did not have the completed Scriptures. We do. Let us desire to follow the scriptures in all things.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

MEDIOCRITY

(Or why doesn't the Dunkard Brethren Church grow?)

Mediocrity - just what does that word mean? The dictionary describes it as the quality or state of being mediocre-moderate ability or value. Mediocre means "of moderate or low excellence." Average-just getting by-just holding on.

I have thought much on the lack of growth of our beloved Brotherhood. We started over seventy years ago with dozens of small groups of believers who saw real problems in the existing church

and separated themselves to hold on to the convictions they had as they read and understood the Word. Then over the next few years some of these small groups either merged with nearby congregations or died out entirely. I do not have access to exact numbers but we now have about thirty congregations with eight hundred to one thousand members (maybe) and at least half of the congregations have twenty-five or fewer members.

I heard a very interesting statement from the pulpit recently. It went something like this, "a church that stops growing and maturing is probably dead. If you have a plant, an animal, or even a human that stops growing or maturing, we call it dead. It would seem the same could hold true for a church."

How did the early church grow? There were three basic ways.

1. Internally - they taught their children and won them to the Lord.
2. Externally - they witnessed to their friends and neighbors and won them to the Lord.
3. Evangelistically - new churches were planted by an evangelist or small group of believers with one or more preachers at each place. Then as they grew, they sent more out to start one or more other churches.

How has the average (there's that word again) Dunkard church stacked up to these methods of growth? We keep a few of our own children, win very few neighbors to the Lord, and we have started less than ten new congregations in the last fifty years and most of them have died for lack of enough people or a minister to feed the flock.

Are we dead? Or are we just trying to be average-just getting by-just holding on?

I feel led to submit a few observations.

1. We as a people either don't know how (or just don't attempt) to witness or lead others to the Lord.
2. We as a people have our roots too deep in our communities or jobs or families to pick up and go to help establish new churches.
3. We as a people seem to be too timid to speak freely about the Lord to others-even to those of our own congregations at times.
4. Most of us don't know our Bible nearly as well as we should.

5. We as a people are afraid to change anything we do when it comes to spiritual things, even if the change is good.

The Bible speaks in many places of how we should live this Christian life. First we have the Great Commission as given to us in Matt. 28:19-20. We are taught in many places we are not to bury our talents but to use them to the glory of the Lord-that the Lord's kingdom may grow and expand. The Bible speaks of striving for perfection; it teaches us to bring our firstfruits; it teaches us to be good stewards for our Master. What if the apostles and Christians of the early church spread the Gospel as we do?

This was submitted in love and as something for us to think on; and not only think on, but act on as the Lord may lead us. Are we just practicing mediocrity or are we concerned enough about souls in these last few days to do whatever we can for the kingdom of the Lord? It has been encouraging to see the work in Africa, Haiti, and other new endeavors that have started and I praise God for it. As God opens doors, let's go through them as He calls us.

Your brother in Christ,
Brother John Meyers

OBITUARY

MILDRED KREINER

Sis. Mildred W. Kreiner was born November 10:1909, to Theodore and Cevilla Myers near North Canton, Ohio, and departed this life on January 19, 1998, in the Aultman Hospital, at the age of 88 years, 2 months and 9 days. She had resided in the North Canton area her entire life and at an early age accepted Christ as her Savior and remained faithful to her Lord all her life. She became a charter member of the Orion Dunkard Brethren Church in 1926, and was the last charter member of the congregation.

In 1930 she was united in marriage to Lowell Kreiner and in this home was born Jean, Carol, Ted and Kathi. She is survived by her son, Ted, of West Unity, Ohio, and daughter, Kathi Grishaber of North Canton, ten grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and a sister, Iona Allen of North Canton. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lowell, in 1993, and daughters, Jean Browning in 1993 and Carol Piggot in 1962, and a brother, Paul Myers.

Services were conducted in the Karlo & Sons Funeral Home, on January 23, 1998, at 11:00 A.M. by Elder Harley Flory, assisted by Elder H. Edward Johnson. Burial was in the North Canton Cemetery with Pastor Reid Firestone in charge.

MEETING NOTICES

April 3-4 - Second District Meeting, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio.

April 5-12 - Plevna, Indiana Revival.

April 11 - First District Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania.

April 11 - Third District Meeting, Quinter, Kansas.

April 10-12 - Fourth District Meeting, Pleasant Home, California.

June 6-10 - 1998 General Conference, West Milton, Ohio.

LOVEFEAST NOTICES

April 11 - Plevna, Indiana.

April 11 - Quinter, Kansas.

April 11 - Pleasant Home, California.

April 25 - Grandview, Missouri.

April 25 - West Fulton, Ohio.

April 26 - Bethel, Pennsylvania.

May 3 - Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

May 16 - Dayton, Virginia.

May 17 - Lititz, Pennsylvania.

May 24 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Rod Renicker is P.O. Box 1161, Salida, CA 95368. His telephone number remains the same.

DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION CORRECTION

The address of Sis. Della Ebling is 81 Dry Hollow Rd., Bernville, PA 19506. Her telephone number remains the same.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation will have Lovefeast Services on Saturday, April 25 at 6:00 P.M. Other services that day will be at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Services on Sunday will be at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Please come and worship with us during these (or any) services!

Sister Deena Andrews, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation is looking forward to their Lovefeast Service on May 3. Come and worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

THANK YOU

All you who made my 90th birthday a happy time, a hearty thanks. I appreciated all of the cards even if they were late. Ninety-seven cards were received. God bless you all. I love you.

Sister Ethel Whitmer

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for their part in sending cards and making telephone calls for our sixtieth wedding anniversary. We were thankful for the surprise they had for us at church, including the beautiful cake. It all helped to make our day GREAT. God Bless everyone.

Brother Edward and Sister Pauletta Johnson

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1998

May 3 - God's Victory At Ai - Joshua 8:1-29.

1. Why was Israel allowed to keep for themselves the spoil and cattle of Ai while at Jericho they were commanded to destroy them?
2. What method did God through Joshua use at Ai to make the walls and gates of the city ineffective?

May 10 - MOTHER'S DAY - Ruth 1:1-22.

1. Explain the motherhood of Naomi to her daughters-in-law.

2. Why was Ruth so devoted to Naomi?

May 17 - Joshua Builds An Altar - Joshua 8:30-35.

1. Why did Joshua build an altar?

2. What was the purpose of Joshua reading before the congregation the entire Book of the Law?

May 24 - REVERENCE - Ex. 3:1-6, 20:12, I Pet. 3:1-6, I Tim. 5:1-3.

1. How can we show our reverence for God and the things of God?

2. Explain reverence as it applies to God's order of headship.

May 31 - Israel's Mistake - Joshua 9:1-15.

1. How could we be deceived today by friendly strangers?

2. Why did not Joshua seek God's counsel before making a peace agreement with these strangers?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1998

May 3 - Accountability - Luke 16:19-31, Ezek. 18:20, Rom. 14:12.

1. To whom are we individually accountable?

2. For whom are we accountable?

May 10 - MOTHER'S DAY - Ruth 1:1-22.

1. Name the qualities that made Naomi a good mother.

2. What characteristics demonstrated here in the life of Ruth would later help her be a good mother?

May 17 - The Parable Of Wheat And Tares - Matt. 13:24-43.

1. How can a tare be identified?

2. Why are the tares allowed to continue growing?

May 24 - The Temptation Of Christ - Luke 4:1-19.

1. What was the purpose of Jesus being tempted by the devil?

2. How did Jesus refute the temptations of the devil?

May 31 - Attire - Deut. 22:5, Isa. 3:18-23, Matt. 6:25-32, I Tim. 2:8-10

1. Why is it so important that our attire be gender specific and not cross gender?

2. Explain the meaning of modest attire.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
--	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ACCORDING TO THY GRACIOUS WORD

According to thy gracious word,
In meek humility,
This will I do, my dying Lord,
I will remember Thee.

Thy body, broken for my sake,
My bread from heav'n shall be;
Thy testamental cup I take,
And thus remember Thee.

Gethsemane can I forget?
Or there Thy conflict see,
Thine agony and bloody sweat,
And not remember Thee?

When to the cross I turn mine eyes,
And rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, my Sacrifice,
I must remember Thee.

-James Montgomery

ISAAC'S WELLS

In desert areas, water is very necessary to produce crops and to water livestock. Since there is little water on the surface, it is necessary to dig wells to have access to that water. These wells may be quite deep. It takes a great deal of effort to dig these wells. Once a well is dug and producing, it is very valuable. The owner of a good well has a possession that he wants to keep.

Isaac's attitude concerning these valuable wells illustrates lessons for Christians today. The story of Isaac's wells is told in Genesis 26, so it would be well for each to read that account.

After being sent from the Philistines, because of their jealousy of his riches, Isaac went to the Valley of Gerar. There he found the wells Abraham had dug many years before. After the death of Abraham, the Philistines had filled them. It would be necessary to redig and clean them out. They must be restored to produce water for his herds.

The restoring and cleaning of these wells speaks of a need to look back with appreciation to the works of our fathers. Isaac wanted to restore the wells of his father. Many Christians need to restore the values, practices and Spiritual strengths of their Spiritual forefathers. Over the years their Spiritual wells have become contaminated with the dirt and debris of the world. Their lives and possessions have been used for purposes other than what was intended by God. Many need to repent, so they might have progress. So

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much that is thought to be progressive is actually tainted with the world's debris. Their wells have been filled with pleasures and possessions that have not yielded Spiritual fruit in their lives. Isaac was willing to invest his time and effort to restore the wells of his father, instead of seeking wells somewhere else. When those wells were restored they were productive. If he had dugged new wells following the ideas of the people around him, they would have been dry or contaminated wells that could not produce the desired water.

After Isaac's servants had cleaned out the first two wells, the herdmen of that country strove for those wells. They recognized that Isaac's wells were good wells. They appreciated those wells, although they had not had the ambition to clean them out after being filled. Now that Isaac had cleaned them out, they wanted them. They knew a good thing when they saw it.

What reaction would be expected from Isaac? He had just invested a great deal of time and labor in the restoring of these wells. He was expecting rewards from his investment. He knew that he had something valuable. The people who wanted the wells also realized how valuable they were.

Isaac's reaction was not the expected reaction. Rather than strive with the herdmen of Gerar, he told his servants to let them have the well. He moved to another well. That well he restored. The herdmen of Gerar also strove to get that well. Again, Isaac allowed them to have it without a struggle. He moved to the third well. That well was restored. That well was not demanded by his neighbors, so he could use it for his purposes.

A lesson for today's Christian is contained in Isaac's method of handling these contentious situations. In a time when resistance and revenge were approved, Isaac reacted in an unexpected way. He allowed the grasping herdmen to have the wells that they were striving to obtain. Isaac moved on to the next filled well. How often do Christians become so attached to their valuable possessions that they become contentious over them. Isaac's wells were probably more valuable in that economy than many possessions that we would contend to retain.

The Mosaic Law had told them that "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" was the accepted way to deal with differences.

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, gave a higher method of dealing with these situations. He spoke of turning the other cheek and receiving not only one or two adverse strokes but to continue to receive the blows of the world without resorting to the world's way of dealing with unfair situations. He demonstrated that philosophy when He called for their forgiveness in the midst of His crucifixion.

The doctrine of non-resistance is not merely a compilation of words and Biblical references, it is a way of dealing with everyday situations. Little is fair in this world, so the Christian should be prepared to demonstrate this doctrine often.

What would you have done if you had been in the place of Isaac? Would you have striven with the herdmen of Gerar, or would you have moved on to another well and cleaned it out too?

Isaac was blessed for cleaning out those wells and restoring them as Abraham had established them. We can be blessed today for restoring the old, established Spiritual wells of our fathers, including the oft-neglected doctrine of nonresistance.

M.C.Cook

LESSONS FROM THE FIRST GRADE

As a teacher of first graders, I sometimes feel I am learning a lot, too. I have had lessons about life, lessons in faith, in patience, and in love. (I have also learned things the parents would be surprised I know!)

My students have given some good lessons in faith. It is easy for us to doubt and be skeptical, but the children can trust God and not have that wavering. Adults can take heed to the little ones and trust God, believing that He can do anything.

The mother of my student, Jordan, is expecting. Jordan and his brothers are hoping for another boy. One of them said, "Well, even if it is a girl now, God can do anything so He can change it to a boy!"

One year we had pet guinea pigs in our classroom. The children really enjoyed them, holding and playing with them, and caring for them. The baby guinea pigs were squirmy, and one was accidentally dropped while being held by a student. It broke its neck and died in a few minutes. All the children felt bad, and some

were crying. We took the guinea pig out and buried it at the edge of the field. (This all happened before we had even started our day.) When we came in from the burial, we had devotions, and I prayed, as usual. As soon as I was finished, hands started waving. "You forgot to pray for the guinea pig!" I had thought of it, but did not know what to say. So I asked them. "Jesus can make it come alive," was the response. They truly had the faith that the dead guinea pig could be revived. Several weeks later the farmer began his spring plowing. Laura, a student, was worried. "Jesus better hurry and make the guinea pig come alive!" she said, still believing.

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Genesis 18:14. "Ah, Lord God! behold thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." Jeremiah 32:17.

Yes, Jesus can do anything! We need to grasp that faith, like the children have, and trust in the Lord.

Sister Arlene Birt

WHAT DOES WORSHIP MEAN TO US AS CHRISTIANS

We sing, "O, Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness." These words are found in I Chronicles 16:29, as written in the song of praise to the Lord that King David sang as the Ark of the Covenant was moved from Obbededom's house to the tent that David had prepared for it in Bethlehem. The words are also found in Psalms 29:2 and 96:9.

Holiness is the act of being dedicated to God. In the beauty of this dedication, we are to worship Him.

What, then, is the meaning of worship?

Webster says, "Reverence or devotion for a deity; a church service or other rite showing religious homage." Nelson's Bible dictionary says, "Reverent devotion and allegiance pledged to God; the rituals or ceremonies by which this reverence is expressed."

We are not to worship Him in vain. Jesus, in quoting Isaiah the prophet, to the Scribes and Pharisees, said, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me, teaching for doctrines the command-

ments of men." Matthew 15:8-9.

We are to worship Him in spirit; God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24.

In Revelation, the four and twenty elders, which sat before God, fell upon their faces, and worshipped the Lord God Almighty, "which art, and wast, and art to come, because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned." Revelation 11:16-17.

Jesus told Satan, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." If you remember, Satan had promised Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, if He would bow down and worship him (Satan). It would seem that this is what is happening in the world today. Satan is tempting, and people are worshipping the creature rather than the creator.

How worshipful is our worship?

May God help us more and more to truly know how to worship Him.

In His Love,
Brother Paul and Sister Dorothy Nell

PREPARING TO MEET WITH GOD

As we look at Hebrews 4:13, it says, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." We realize that the God we serve is an all-knowing God and there is nothing that is hidden from His sight.

I was made to think of something when one of our daughters had a list of notes that were taken in class concerning how to conduct an interview, if we were to go apply for a job. The first portion dealt with the proper way to set up an appointment, what to say, and how to act when you go to the front desk. Then when you get into the manager's office for the interview, it told the proper things to say and how you are to act and so forth. The intent was to naturally make a good impression, so that they would think favorably of you and offer you a job.

It also went into a list of some things a manger would not want to see in an applicant or even after he got the job. If we were to

think of our meeting together in worship services not only just to worship God, but knowing that we could meet God in person, what kind of impression would we leave? What kind of impression would our interview with Him make? Would it be favorable? Would He hire us as a servant? Would He be glad to have us on His work force? Or would He be ready to let us go?

One of the things on the list was no organization or sloppiness. I was made to wonder, how many times is our preparation more the quick, throw-some-notes-in-the-Bible, as we are tearing out the door, trying to fasten our coats, so we are not late for worship? Is that about all the preparation we give toward this interview that we are going to have with our Lord?

The second thing was laziness or having to be told everything. What if we already have the job? What does our Lord see in our work ethics? Do we follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit that we might have from time to time? Or do we have to be struck down as the Apostle Paul was, in order to get our attention?

Another thing was call in sick, arrive late, leave early, refuse overtime, and to constantly ask for raises. Is that our spiritual outlook on life? Do we have any kind of excuse that we can possibly come up with to avoid work and avoid going to the house of God? After we get there, do we try to leave just as quickly as we can, so that we can get back home and do other things?

The fourth item was don't look at the clock or watch your watch. Sometimes I wonder if that's how we act in God's house. Are we constantly watching the clock to make sure that no one holds us over any longer than absolutely necessary? Or do we sit there looking forward to the dinner we can have once we get home and have an afternoon of rest and relaxation? We do not want anyone infringing on that right.

Number five was don't be a quitter. What happens to our attitude when we go to the house of God and maybe things do not go quite like we want? Do we "throw in the towel" with a don't-care attitude?

The sixth item is don't be a chronic complainer. Do we always have a "why me" attitude? What does God see in our hearts as we come forth to meet Him? Are we glad for the things He has given?

Do we manifest a cheerful spirit? Can we say with the Psalmist David that we are glad to be able to go to the house of God?

Being a braggart was the seventh item on the list. I was made to wonder, do we come before God with the same attitude that Christ told about in Luke 18:11-12? As God looks into our hearts as we come before His presence, is this the attitude that He sees in our hearts? An attitude that we are glad we are better than somebody else?

Number eight was don't blame everyone else. Do we come forth with that? Something that happened was not really my fault. I would be a better individual if everyone around me would straighten up. If everyone did their job, I could do my job so much better. You know, it's pretty easy sometimes to make ourselves appear good if we can put someone else down.

The ninth thing on the list was arrogant, conceited, rude, pushy, or moody. Does everyone at church know when we are having a "bad hair day?"

The tenth item was don't say or do anything to disgrace the company. A lot of times if we work with an individual who has constantly bad-mouthed the management or whatever it might be, we know that attitude can soon catch on, and it soon spreads to others with whom we work. Eventually there could be many employees downcast, with low morale, and so forth. Are we guilty of that in God's house and those that are in leadership? "If I was in that position, I would do things a whole lot differently."

Another thing mentioned was lying, stealing, cheating. Again, do we try to, or do we take from the company things that we feel is owed to us? Is that how we come to God's house, with the attitude that there is something that they owe to me? Or do we strive to advance ourselves over and above others, maybe by stepping on them?

The last one on the list was need to show pride in your work and in your appearance. I wonder about my witness as I go forth from day to day. Am I willing to be recognized as a Christian? Am I willing for others to see that I am one of God's children, or do I rather hide it under a bushel, as Christ mentions.

We have a wonderful Employer, if we want to look at Him as an

employer. He is one who blesses us far and above that which we deserve. We can be pleased to say that we work for Him. That is something for which we can be glad. As we present ourselves to our Maker and Creator, what will the results of our interview be?

Brother Stephen Blocher
9946 U.S. Rt. 36
Bradford, OH 45308

SIGNS OF FALLING AWAY

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you." Matthew 24:3-4.

Many times during the ministry of Jesus, He was challenged by the people to show them signs that would convince them that He was indeed the Christ, the chosen one of God. He also was asked to reveal unto them the events that would precede His return. In this chapter of the gospel of Matthew, Jesus reveals to His disciples many of the events that would come to pass prior to His coming in glory.

The Apostle Paul, when writing to the church at Thessalonica wrote, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first..." II Thessalonians 2:3.

A recent visit with an older brother has brought to light just how dramatically the activities and attitudes of the people of our nation, yes, even Christians have changed during my short lifetime. The Lord's Day, once observed by most in this nation as the day of rest for our bodies and day of reverence and worship to the God of Heaven, has been changed by many into the day of revenue and recreation. When I was a boy nearly all, if not all, of the businesses in our local towns were closed on Sunday to observe the Lord's Day. Today most restaurants, sports arenas, and shopping malls look to Sunday as one of the most profitable days of the week. A respected Christian financial adviser has surveyed the Christian community in America and found the results of these surveys inter-

esting but also disappointing. Professing Christians in America now give more money to financial institutions and credit card companies, in interest, than they give in tithes, offerings, and other areas of benevolence. Add to that list: entertainment, recreation, and hobbies and the gap grows even wider. Many Christians put more into the pockets of restaurant owners following the Sunday morning service than they put into the offering plate. It seems that the words of the prophet Malachi cries out to America, yes, even Christians in America, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:8-12. As the attendance at other places increase many seats in the churches in our nation are left empty. David made his desires known in Psalm 27:4, "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple." Which seat will you or I desire to occupy? Let us encourage one another to dwell in the House of the Lord.

Is America falling away? The signs are all around us. The question is, will we heed their warnings or will we drift along and soon find ourselves out of God's favor. May we use the time and talents God has given us to honor Him and share His love with others.

Brother Dale Meyers

WE, TOO, SERVE HIM

Acts 2:46-47, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having

favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

I am sure I rejoice with all of you, the readers of the MONITOR, when I read of the successes of the missions in Africa. Every article blesses my soul when I read of the great numbers baptized and the numbers gathering to hear the Blessed Word. Meanwhile, back in America, the land of complacency and indifference, our meetinghouses are closing and many are falling away. Be assured that what is going on in Africa did not happen by accident, just as the work in America did not happen by accident.

We as a church as well as those who read the Monitor not of our fraternity, yet Brethren nonetheless, need to pray that God will visit us likewise to strengthen and increase our faith. Let us be in one accord, as they were at Pentecost, for the salvation of souls. Recently we saw the salvation of one of our sons. It is a glorious thing to see one entering the Kingdom of God. May we be worthy of him. May he enter a praying, preaching, supportive church that cares for his soul. May each member love him and pray for him daily. (Just as it should with the unsaved ones.) May this nurturing spirit draw others. Remember, it is the warmth of the saints that draws others. If we are cold toward the outside world let us repent of it and ask God to fill us with the warmth of the Holy Ghost.

The people of Africa are hungry: not just for earthly food, but for heavenly. May we pray that this hunger might spread to the people of this land. It CAN happen, if we are faithful. May God grant it in our lifetime. If we are not faithful to the Word, then we may see, as England did, those that we evangelized coming to America to evangelize US.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

I CHANGE NOT

This is the word of God in Mal. 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." And in Heb. 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Do you ever become frightened or perplexed at the things that

are happening around you? As you read about the suffering of Christians around the world, or worse yet you read about Christian(?) leaders who doubt the divinity of Christ, and question the resurrection of Christ, are you frightened or frustrated?.

We see throughout the scriptures that many times Satan tried to destroy the works of God, but God always prevailed.

In the Garden, Satan prevailed upon Adam to challenge the command of God, thus bringing death upon all men, but God promised a Seed to bruise the head of Satan. When Cain slew Abel, God promised a seed in Seth. Gen. 4:25, "And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew."

As time went on mankind grew very wicked. Gen. 6:5, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

So God said, I will destroy all this that I have created. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Gen. 6:8. So God preserved a seed, because "...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."

It was not long after the flood until the wickedness of men again became very great, but God chose out a man called Abram, later named Abraham (a father of many nations). He gave Abraham many promises, but the greatest promise was that in his seed should all the nations of the earth be blessed. Paul makes it plain that this seed is Christ. Gal. 3:16, "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."

There were many whom God used to lead His people. After the children of Israel served the Egyptians over 400 years, the cry came up before God. Moses was called then to lead them out of bondage.

God took eighty years to prepare Moses for the work he had for him to do. Read about his birth, Ex. 2:1-10, about his futile attempt to deliver his people by his own hand, and his flight into the desert, Ex. 2:11-25, Acts 7:19-36 and Heb. 11:23-27. Then read of his call

by God to deliver his people, Ex. 3:1-20.

Then there was Samuel. I Sam. 3:1-4, "And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I."

There were many others too numerous to name here, that God used to keep His promises to Israel. Some were Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah and Ezra.

He used heathen rulers such as Nebuchadnazzar, Dan. 4:37, and Cyrus, Isa. 44:24-28, II Chron. 36:22-23 and Ezra 1:1-4.

But all of these were not enough, Isa. 59:16, "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him." Read through verse 21.

Eze. 22:30, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

Gal. 4:4-6, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

So we come to the One that God sent to make up the hedge, and to stand in the gap. It will take another article to tell more of the One who came that we should not be destroyed with the land.

We conclude this article with the thought of victory over all the acts of Satan. Jesus said, "I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

Rev. 17:14, "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Please read Rev. 19:1-9, especially verse 7.

If you are still afraid, take heart and sing:

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood Of Mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe, His craft and
power are great;
And armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, The Man of God's own choos-
ing.

Dost ask what that may be? Christ Jesus; it is He; Lord Sabaoth His
name,
From age to age the same, And He must win the battle

And though this world with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim-We tremble not for him; His rage we
can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body they may
kill.

God's truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.

May God bless you all and keep you in the hollow of His hand.

Brother William Carpenter

NEVERTHELESS AFTERWARD

I bowed my head into the north wind as I pushed my way to the house. At the moment two tremendous forces seemed in contest to drive me back; the icy edge of the northwestern storm against my body and the last bit of bad news weighing against my spirit. Then I heard it. Like angels in the wind playing the aeolian harp, each

new gust only reaching a more melodious note on the power lines as they guided my way to the warmth of our home and the plaque on the wall reassuring me; "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1.

This happening brought afresh to my mind the truth of Hebrews 12:11, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

We are not always sure of the reasons for the valleys or the trials we face, but we all face them! I believe they are for different reasons: some from God for our refining, our chastening, or perhaps to revive our faith and hope. Some may be trials of Satan to test our faith. However with each can be a "nevertheless afterward". The final chapter can sometimes be penned by our decisions of response as in Deuteronomy chapter eight. Whatever the reason for the test, the message of the hymn writer is there to comfort us: "Amid the trials which I meet there remains one thought supremely sweet, Thou thinkest Lord of me!"

I believe the key to a blessing is found in the beginning of this twelfth chapter of Hebrews where the writer encourages us to "run with patience." He then sets forth our perfect example, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." One cannot help but think of His trial at the cross as He cried out to the Father, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?", and then the "afterwards" at the "throne of God."

In Pilgrims Progress, Patience was willing to wait. As pilgrims to a better country, yea a celestial city, are we willing to patiently wait? After the struggle, after the storm, after the why? Then the peaceable fruit!

Job's servant came to him and said, "The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and both burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them." This was only a part of Job's loss of all things;

and yet he said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." And again he said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." As for the "latter end of Job", the "nevertheless afterward", the Word tells us it was a double blessing in this life and I believe most importantly life eternal!

When the Apostle Paul reflected on his trials, he said, "we are...perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;..." And the hymn writer echoes:

The flame shall not hurt thee,

I only design

Thy dross to consume,

And thy gold to refine.

The challenges we face are not often in Sinai settings nor with ecclesiastical revelations, but in the everyday happenings of our living. As a midwestern farmer there has been more than one occasion during spring planting pressure, in which I found comfort in the following lines:

Rain! Rain!

Beating against the pane!

How endlessly it pours, out of doors

From the blackened sky...

I wonder, "Why?"

Flowers! Flowers!

Upspringing after showers!

Blossoming fresh and fair...everywhere!

Ah! God has explained

Why it rained.

Peter said in chapter one, verse thirteen, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **hope to the end** for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the **revelation of Jesus Christ.**" There, fellow Christian is the **nevertheless afterward!**

Brother Fred Pifer

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

Holy Living and Life's Possessions

I would suggest that the greatest problem that young people and Christians, in general, have to overcome today is materialism. We need some strong guidelines in which to evaluate what materialism really is and how to live above it.

Holy living and materialism have never been compatible. Even though we condemn it, we are plagued by its influence on our lives. It would seem that we can identify it in the lives of others much more easily than in our own lives. We begin to think that a materialist is anyone who owns more than we do!

Materialism can be defined on the basis of how much we own. If we own far more than we can use or need, we probably are caught up in this sin. Jesus did not teach against ownership of things. Even His disciples continued to own fishing boats and we know that Peter owned a home. We also know that Jesus borrowed a donkey from a disciple who owned it and he was buried in a tomb that belonged to a "rich" disciple, Joseph of Arimathea.

The meaning of "needs" even differs from one culture to another. Depending on where we live in the world, our needs may change depending on our work, our outreach, and so forth. Probably the most important thing about our possessions is our attitude about them. They are God's, of course, and we need to share them with others and praise the Giver for them.

Materialism places value on things above people. The New Testament teaches us that people are most important and should be viewed in light of the Kingdom.

How do we live holy lives in this materialistic society?

1. Recognize that there is never going to be equality in possessions but praise God for the gifts that He gives to you and be good stewards of these resources.

2. Examine your relationship with things. Are you driven by a desire to have and to own? Is the best part of your life your accumulation of material goods? It will be hard to live a holy life in an atmosphere charged with anxiety and greed of acquiring material things.

3. Examine the values you show to others. If you are preaching material possessions with your life and actions, you are not a model of godliness. If you are motivated to be educated or trained just to gain more wealth, you need to re-evaluate your motivations.

4. Look at the way you evaluate other people. Do not judge others by their clothes, their style, their status, their position. Judge them according to God's value system.

5. Examine your spending habits. If endless shopping sprees are what you really hunger for, look again at your priorities.

6. Learn to be good stewards of God's bountiful blessings. The resources you own may well be many or few, but take care of them as if someone else owned them. HE does!

7. Learn more and more about God's will for you materially from reading His instruction manual - the Bible. I recommend the book of Titus as a good teaching source on this subject. Titus teaches us to live a life of temperance and godliness in this age of materialism.

May God give you special insight into peace, contentment and financial happiness.

Brother Len Wertz

KENYA KNOTES

The Volleyball Game

Yesterday the youth were playing volleyball after church, when some of the local police showed up and wanted to play, too. So we let them. Big mistake. When they play, they play real technical. One man was being the referee and keeping score. He penalized my team for "improper rotation", and "bad reception". So I tried to explain to him that we do not play like that. Most of the youth here are new to volleyball. If we instated all those rules, the only people who would get to play would be the servers. I finally persuaded him to tone it down a little and we really had some fun then.

On the way home, a friend and I had a very nice discussion on the pride and boastfulness, playing competitive sports can bring. Soccer is one of, if not the most, popular sport in Kenya. He told me that if someone kicks you and takes the ball, you will want to re-venge yourself. That is one reason, we both agreed, that volleyball

is a much better sport. It's not a contact sport.

I want to thank all of you for the birthday cards! I wish I had time to write to each of you personally, but unfortunately, I do not.

In Christian love,
Brother William Scofield

Safari

For William's birthday we went on safari. First we went to a cave up in the hills of Ortum. We took our own lanterns. Two guides took us there. In the cave we found lots of bats, which fluttered all around us. There were also bugs, about two inches long, which had tunneled under the four-inch-deep bat dookie, making the cave floor alive with motion.

After the cave we went to a game reserve to see some elephants. Well, we ended up driving around the game reserve for about an hour, seeing baboons, spider monkeys, little one foot high things that look like gazelles, but no elephants.

At one point, Dad and one of the military officers, who accompanied us, with their AK-47's and G-3's, had to get out and throw rocks in a ditch in the road so we could get by. Then we turned a corner and there were four elephants forty feet away. One reared back, raised its trunk, and let out a big snort, then turned and ran into the thick bush. After that we only saw the elephants at two hundred yards with binoculars. There were about twenty of them. They rolled in the dirt, hid behind bushes, and kept their distance. All in all, it was a good safari.

Brother Matthew Scofield

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour.

I want to thank everyone for the support you have given in the way of prayers and letters. It is such a joy to hear from home and know we are being lifted before our Father in prayer.

We have been thinking a great deal about home and Conference soon coming. How we enjoy attending Conference. We will surely miss it this year. Our prayers will be with you as you gather for teaching at Conference this year, but we are certainly learning a lot in Kenya.

This has been a time of great growth for the four of us. We have known for sometime that it is in teaching and sharing God's Word that we ourselves grow. When you are put to the test, you grow even more! Every day is filled with test and trials. Every day we are reminded who supplies us with the strength to continue. We have days of great frustration, but we count it all joy that we are able to serve our Lord here in Kenya.

God be with you as you meet at Conference. We will be with you in Spirit.

A fellow servant of our Lord
Sister Terry Scofield

Greetings from Kenya, dear brothers and sisters in Jesus precious name.

March 26, our family made a visit to the church in Uganda. The van found a few smooth and wide roads to share with the people, animals, bicycles, pushcarts, tractors, taxis and trucks found on all the roads of Kenya and Uganda. After replacing a new tube, that was ruined by a rock left inside when the new tires were purchased one week earlier (tubeless tire technology is rare), we arrived safely at Peter's house in Kampala.

Uganda has much more rain than Kenya. Bananas grow everywhere. Everything is green. The air is heavy and humid. Birds sound like toy whistles. Large ravens wear bibs for dinner. Storks glide through the city.

Small business is thriving in both Kenya and Uganda. A modest business can be started with ten dollars in a small wood shed. There are thousands of these. Some may only be a feed sack filled with "cold" sodas.

Most buildings and homes are built of brick and mortar with a tin roof in Uganda. The mud, stick and thatch homes of Kenya would melt in the Ugandan rains.

At Peter's we discovered a leak in the clutch hydraulic linkage. While getting repairs, I realized Kampala was a good place to get parts for the van because most all taxis there are the same model. Enroute to the auto repair shop we discovered a "Dominos Pizza." Menu investigation revealed toppings including salami, bologna, Nile

perch, banana, mango and avocado topped with sour cheese, no sauce, with spicy ketchup in a bottle on the table. Delivery was available by motor scooter.

The evening custom in Uganda is to work until 6:00 P.M., return home, do chores, bathe and be ready for supper at 10:00 P.M. I spent at least one late night till 1:00 A.M. talking about the Bible, doctrine, beliefs, ideas and "what ifs".

The building Brother Verling worked on was finished very nicely with fluorescent light, smooth floor and walls, and glass in the door and windows. Eleven boarding students call it home. Three offices were built next to it, which are almost finished.

I had several opportunities to address the students. I told them stories of swords and idols and fires and life and death and beginning and endings. We found an interested group at church on Sunday and gave Bibles to diligent members. Pray that these mustard seeds in Uganda grow to be mighty trees in God's Kingdom.

God's Peace

Brother Tim Scofield

BWANA ASIFIWE (PRAISE GOD)

I thank the African Mission Board for sending Sister Terry Scofield to Kenya. I believe as time goes by we shall learn and benefit more spiritually from her.

The love that God gave Sister Terry has been manifested in many ways. It has helped many sisters to come out of their getting acquainted period safely. Her teachings have improved our relationships within our families.

Surely I am impressed with how God created her. I wonder how a woman can commit herself to work for the Lord and at the same time care for her family. These are the heaviest tasks one can think of.

Sister Terry has entered terrible places no matter what kind of hardships she undergoes. She does not mind the worst situations around her, but is only more determined to work for the Lord. I encourage her to continue like that for she will be rewarded by God.

I have personally been convinced and challenged in such a

way that I have decided to join her and work for the Lord.

Medical services have been dealt with accordingly by Sister Terry. This is another gift that she received from God and she is using it wisely.

It is my prayer that God will care for her and sustain her for the whole period she will be here with us. May God give her knowledge and power to continue teaching us in all aspects of life.

May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,
Sister Florence Ayiecha Ambundo

FIRST OF ALL

"...Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men." 1 Tim. 2:1. This was the admonition that the Apostle Paul gave his young spiritual son, Timothy, early in his ministry. We sometimes hear the saying "put first things first", but it is seldom applied to putting God first. Usually He is put last rather than first, as it should be. But the Bible says, "seek ye first the kingdom of God,...and ALL these things shall be added unto you." That is not man's promise, that is God's promise, and He cannot lie. God keeps His promises. He always has, and He always will.

Yet, man still measures God by man's measure. As I have heard it said, "man measures in his own half bushel", which means as we are ourselves so we measure other people. This is not the way God operates.

He always tells the truth regardless of what man believes or does, because God is truthful, righteous, and holy. We should strive to be likewise, true followers of Him. Then we will never need to fear what man will do unto us, because of the help of His Holy Spirit, and His Holy Angels, who have charge to take care of us. Whether we live or die we belong to Him, who is the King of the universe and will save our souls eternally. The dross or the weak in spirit or those who fail to live in faith and works will be cast out into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Today is the day of salvation, harden not your hearts and pray,

pray, pray and fast holding constantly to God's truths putting your trust in Him who is able to keep you from the evil one who was cast out of Heaven and has created havoc for man ever since Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

When we are tempted to follow the ways of the world in our lives, thinking we will have company by mingling with the crowd that the Apostle Paul mentions in his letter to Timothy in II Tim. 3:1-8. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away., For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."

The remainder of the chapter gives us Paul's exhortation concerning what we must do if we are the children of God. What we are to do to be accounted worthy of obtaining the promises, which will not fail, which were given by Elohim, who is truth. He created all things and has given them freely to all mankind. He cannot lie.

As for me I consider it a great privilege to be recognized as a Christian by the world. It has been the opening of some lasting friendships. It has given many opportunities for Bible discussions on parts of the Bible that other people were unaware of being in the Bible. I find people out there in spiritual darkness who are hungry for the true Gospel, the Word of God, not for some watered-down, religious belief. I find that people, when confronted with the Word of God, which they recognize as the truth, will take the truth without ill feelings, when tactfully presented.

One example is a dear soul who with her husband and five children had been reared in an old, old denomination that has drifted far from Biblical truth. They took to the study of the Bible to know and believe just what it says. The result was they left the church they were reared in and went in search of a Bible church. My last

account of her was that they had visited many churches, none of which they considered Biblical, so they gathered their family together regularly and studied the Bible at home.

We certainly are living in a world of deception that reminds me of a good piece of cheese in the garbage—it is tainted. The Scriptures have been subtracted from, added to, to mean differently than the original Word of God. Dear reader let me tell you, beware of the late versions of the Bible. Satan has been at work almost six thousand years putting into the hearts of men and women rules and regulations that are in disobedience to the original Word of Elohim. That disobedience will put them into an everlasting furnace of sin and fiery brimstone. That is what God says in His Word, at least in our older versions of the Bible. God is still truth and cannot lie. “Everlasting” means just as long for the wicked as it does for the righteous. “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” Matt. 25:46.

Please read the last chapter of Revelation which tells what will happen to the souls of people who have changed God’s Word. It is high time we study our dependable old version Bibles daily and pray, pray, pray. There is not much of what we call time left to get right and be accepted of Him who made all things for His honor and glory. The greatest destruction of this sinful world that has ever been since Adam is practically upon us and the foolish virgins are sleeping on.

Prepare for the future, put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Please read Eph. 6:10-18. Get right with God so that when the time of tribulation comes upon us and the foolish virgins are sleeping on that we the righteous can patiently draw comfort and deliverance from our heavenly source. Please read all of Hebrews 2 in connection with this article, and waste no time in being ready or the door to the Marriage Supper may be shut by the time you get ready like it was for the five foolish virgins.

Take My Life

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing, Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

-Frances R. Havergal
Sister Ruth M. Snyder

MEETING NOTICES

June 6-10 - 1998 General Conference, West Milton, Ohio.

July 12-19 - Revival Meeting, Hart, Michigan

July 24-Aug.2 - Revival Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

LOVEFEAST NOTICES

May 3 - Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

May 16 - Dayton, Virginia.

May 17 - Lititz, Pennsylvania.

May 24 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania.

July 18 - Hart, Michigan

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 6 — 10, 1998

Directions to the Memorial Holiness Camp Grounds located one and one-half mile southwest of West Milton, Ohio on Jay Road. Those traveling from the north on I-75 should take exit 73, route 55

and go west to route 48. Go south to Garland Road (approximately one-half mile south of West Milton), then west to Jay Road, then north to grounds.

Those coming from the north on route 127, take route 571 to route 48, proceed south to Garland Road and follow signs to grounds.

Those coming from east or west on I-70 should take exit 29 and proceed north on route 48 to Garland Road, turn left and follow signs.

By plane, come to Dayton International Airport and call the camp grounds for someone to pick you up. Those coming by bus, come to Dayton. There is local bus service from downtown Dayton to West Milton. The camp grounds telephone number is (937)698-9387.

If possible, bring your own bedding. There will be bedding available at the grounds for those who cannot bring their own.

There are plenty of camper hook-ups available.

Send all reservations to:

Bro. Don Hostetler
8383 Arcanum-Bears Mill Rd.
Greenville, OH 45331
(937)548-7382

UPDATE ON THE DUNKARD BRETHERN HISTORY BOOK PROJECT

As was reported in the December 1997 issue of **The Bible Monitor**, the Dunkard Brethren History Committee has been organized and commissioned to produce a book of Dunkard Brethren History by the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Dunkard Brethren Church, which is the year 2001. If you have not read that article, it would be well if you would dig up that issue of **The Bible Monitor** and read it.

To date, several exciting responses have been received, and I am happy to report that the work is slowly beginning to move forward. To document the history of the Dunkard Brethren Church is quite a challenging task, because in many cases the records were not kept too clearly or precisely. However, we are doing the best we

can under the circumstances. Your assistance is of utmost importance!

A few persons are taking the initiative to dig out the history of their local congregations. This is most helpful! Some have perused council meeting minutes, chatted with the older members of their congregation, and have written down the pertinent information. It would be helpful if there were someone who would be willing to do this in each congregation!

A number of folks have gone through their old pictures and forwarded the most interesting ones to me. This will make the history book a lot more interesting! It will certainly be a lot more meaningful to be able to put faces to the names which will be appearing in the book!

A major attempt is currently being made to compile a listing of all ministers and elders who served in our Denomination.

To all of you who have done your homework, THANK YOU! To the rest of you: this project is moving forward, and you are welcome to climb aboard!

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

BRETHREN ENCYCLOPEDIA NEWS

The Editorial Board for Volume 4 of **The Brethren Encyclopedia** has been busy writing and editing articles during the past year. In addition to new articles which will update the Encyclopedia, Volume 4 will carry corrections of the first three volumes, as well as the comprehensive index of the entire set. Dr. Donald Durnbaugh and Dr. Carl Bowman are the Co-Editors of this massive project, which will again cover the five major divisions of the Brethren who trace their roots to 1708. Those who already have the first three volumes will certainly want to add the fourth volume to their set. There will also be an opportunity to purchase the entire set after the fourth volume is published.

Anyone who would currently like to purchase a set of the first three volumes of **The Brethren Encyclopedia** may order it from: **Brethren Encyclopedia**, 313 Fairview Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. The cost is \$130.00 plus \$7.00 postage and handling.

Those who have been ordained into the ministry may purchase the three volume set of **The Brethren Encyclopedia** for a reduced price of \$102.00 (inclusive) for up to one year after their ordination. (Please contact Robert Lehigh for more details if you wish to take advantage of this offer.) If anyone would like to make a contribution towards the production costs of Volume 4, the check should be made out to "**Brethren Encyclopedia**", and should be forwarded to Rev. Ronald Lutz at the above address. There really should be a **Brethren Encyclopedia** set available to each congregation.

Plans are being made for a meeting sponsored by the **Brethren Encyclopedia, Inc.** to be held at Bridgewater College (in Virginia) this summer from July 15 through July 18, 1998. The theme is "Faith and Family - Challenges and Commitments", with topics covered by knowledgeable speakers who will focus on the historical place of the Brethren family in culture. Some of the topics include, "The Place of the Family in Brethren Heritage", "Pressures on the Family in Contemporary Culture", "Impact of Culture on Brethren Families", "The Bible Understandings of the Family", "Family Devotions and Spirituality Within Brethren Tradition", and "Rearing Children Among the Brethren." There will also be tours of the historic Shenandoah Valley, panel discussions, and workshops on various topics. While the primary focus of this event is historical in nature, this will be an insightful time of learning how the five major Brethren groups interpret and live out their understanding of the family, both traditionally, and in today's society. For more details, you can contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert Lehigh

THANK YOU

We would like to thank each one for the prayers and cards sent to Harry during his illness, also the many phone calls. We would especially want to thank Bro. Virgil Leatherman and Bro. Paul Nell and wives for their visits to the hospital on Harry's behalf. He is improving slowly.

May God bless everyone.

Brother Harry and Sister Marie Hott

NOTE OF THANKS

A big Thank You to Brethren and Sisters across the brotherhood.

We feel we are very unworthy of all the cards, flowers and gifts, also well wishes in observance of our 50th anniversary.

Also, a big Thank You to each who had a part in the scrapbook.

All we can say is Thank You, and may God bless each and everyone richly.

In Christian love,

Brother Charles and Sister Maxine Leatherman

THANK YOU

I can never say "thank you" enough, nor could I find words to adequately express my thanks to everyone who sent cards and money for my birthday. It was overwhelming to receive cards from Pennsylvania to California for nearly two weeks—what a blessing!! Sometimes it is so hard to be a gracious receiver, but I do truly appreciate the love each of you expressed, and I pray God will open His storehouse of blessing on each of you, for only He can bless you for your kindness. Actually, turning forty was not so bad after all—especially when you do it with the family of God!! You are wonderful family-in-the-Lord! May God bless you abundantly.

Love to you,

Sister Karen Myers

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1998

June 7 - Alertness - Prov. 4:23, Acts 20:28-31, I Pet. 5:8.

1. Why is it so important to keep our heart "with all diligence?"
2. How can we avoid being devoured by the devil?

June 14 - The Gibeonites enslaved - Joshua 9:16-27.

1. Are we required to keep a promise even when someone lied to us while convincing us to make that promise? Explain.
2. Who actually made the decision which caused the Gibeonites to be servants of the children of Israel?

June 21 - FATHER'S DAY - Genesis 28:1-22.

1. Why did Isaac instruct his son, Jacob, to not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan?
2. How did Jacob's commitment to God, at Bethel, affect his life as a father?

June 28 - Joshua Prays in Faith - Joshua 10:1-27.

1. How can we use prayer to change the circumstances around us today.
2. How can we, in our life, receive God's direction and affirmation as Joshua did in this account?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1998

June 7 - Spiritual Foundations - Isa. 28:16, I Cor. 3:10-15, I Tim. 6:18-19, II Tim. 2:19-26.

1. Why is rock a good foundation?
2. Why is it so important to have a sure spiritual foundation to build upon?

June 14 - The Christian's Armour - Eph. 6:10-24.

1. Why should we put on the whole armour of God, not just part of it?
2. Besides the armour, what offensive weapon should we have for Spiritual warfare?

June 21 - FATHER'S DAY - Mark 9:14-29, I Cor. 4:1-21.

1. How did the faith and persistence of the father contribute to the healing of his son?
2. How can a physical father also be a spiritual father?

June 28 - Christ's Prayer - John 17:1-26.

1. What did Jesus say about the unity of all believers in His prayer?
2. How were we as believers today included in this prayer of Jesus?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHY DO YOU WAIT?

Why do you wait, dear brother?
Oh, why do you tarry so long?
Your Savior is waiting to give you
A place in His sanctified throng.

What do you hope, dear brother,
To gain by a further delay?
There's no one to save you but Jesus,
There's no other way but His way;

Do you not feel, dear brother,
His Spirit now striving within?
Oh, why not accept His salvation,
And throw off your burden of sin?

Why do you wait, dear brother?
The harvest is passing away;
Your Savior is longing to bless you;
There's danger and death in delay.

-George F. Root

IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

When Jacob heard the voice of God calling him to return to his homeland, he was eager to go. He gathered his possessions and his family. He was homeward bound, but as he came closer he began to worry about the reception he would receive from his brother Esau. After Jacob had fraudulently received the blessings that belonged to Esau, Esau had been very wroth, declaring that he would kill Jacob. In the face of that old threat, Jacob began to worry about his safety as he drew closer to the homeland. He sent an announcement of his intentions to Esau along with gifts to buy his favor. He spent a restless night as Esau drew nearer. It was a time of prayer and dealing with God. Tough times often bring out an otherwise latent affection for God and desire for His help. Esau came to Jacob in peace, not even desiring his gift.

Many times we are like Jacob as we dread to meet our Esaus. We want to delay our day of reckoning. Procrastination is one of the greatest enemies of the human spirit. We want to avoid our problems, so we work around them until we get ourselves in even deeper.

We put off doing many things that should be done now. In our material and physical lives, how often do we put off doing what should be done? How many serious illnesses could have been avoided if the doctor had been visited sooner? How often could financial problems have been avoided if help had been sought

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sooner? How often would businesses have avoided bankruptcy if remedial action had been taken quicker? Many times in our lives we can look back and see that if we had acted more quickly, we would have avoided many problems that we were forced to face after all.

Just as we tend to procrastinate in our physical and material lives, so we tend to put off what needs to be done in our Spiritual lives. Often we are as frightened as Jacob was of Esau. The fright was of no value for Esau came to him peaceably. Too often we fear the worst, so we delay doing anything. When we finally do what needed to be done, we find that it was not nearly as difficult as we had anticipated.

How many times have we had good intentions of writing a letter or visiting someone, but we kept putting it off? If this were an elderly person or one who was seriously ill, we may have waited too long. Our good intentions never delivered the extra joy that our letter or visit might have brought to that person.

How often have we put off making an apology or trying to straighten out some misunderstanding with another? Perhaps it has been a touch of pride or a little fear that kept us from making things right. We may have thought that we would appear to be soft if we made the first move toward reconciliation. How many times have we lingered in approaching the other person because we feared them. When we finally made the move we found that they were accommodating, perhaps much like Esau. Christians may be very firm as they stand upon Biblical doctrines, yet they can be the most forgiving of people as they deal with their Brethren and Sisters.

The saving gospel has been provided for the benefit of all who will accept it. Yet the popular view of that gospel has been twisted in such a way that the results of salvation are often thought of as the basis of salvation. The popular view sees the presence or absence of certain behaviors as the determining factor in a soul's well-being. With this public view of the narrowness of Christianity, it is often difficult to share that gospel with others so they will understand the wideness of God's mercy and the lifestyle that

expresses our love for God in return. Fearing being misunderstood, we are slow to share the Biblical doctrines affecting men's salvation. We may fear ridicule or physical harm if we approach others about the greatest need that they have. The worth of a soul is demonstrated in the price that God was willing to pay for that soul by giving His Only Begotten Son as the sacrificial Lamb. The gospel is far different from the world's perception of it. Yet there are those out there who are seeking for the very thing that is offered through the gospel.

Have we delayed accepting and putting into practice the lifestyle that would best demonstrate our commitment to God and to His Church. Does our thinking and living show the Biblical basis of our faith?

How many are guilty of putting off the greatest decision of their lives? Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation. King Agrippa said that he was almost persuaded to be a Christian. But to be almost persuaded is not enough. Why delay?

If not now, then when?

M.C.Cook

I TOUCHED THE MASTER

I. The Manger

Who would have believed it all started here? Who would have believed that the Master of the universe, Jesus Christ, would be wrapped in swaddling clothes and be deposited in me, a lowly manger occupying a smelly stable located in a nondescript village in Palestine? Wasn't Jesus the Son of God and shouldn't He have a cradle more consistent with His position? I thought so and if I had been asked, I would have said as much. But who would have believed me?

To be honest, I was shocked! My unpretentious life consisted of holding fodder for the animals secured in the stable that was my home. It was rather boring, really. Feed was plopped unceremoniously in me, the animals would come and relieve me of my contents, and that was that. O, sometimes a cow would use one

of my corners to scratch an itch she had on her neck—the hairs imbedded in the cracks of my wood attest to that. Sometimes a stray cat would spend the night curled up in the hay that was left in me, but other than that life was quite monotonous. That is, until the glorious day Jesus was born.

The air was charged with something that transcended the bustle of activity in the town of Bethlehem. I noticed that many of the animals were aware, with that sixth sense they possess that people do not have, of an impending phenomenon. I felt something too, although perhaps not as acutely as my animal friends. I did not understand it at the time, but looking back in retrospect it is all very clear. I soon learned that a process for the atonement of sin had been set in motion several thousand years ago because two people had brought sin into the world. As I watched the events unfold that day I knew the world would never be the same. I knew that one of the pivotal events in history was occurring. And I was a first-hand observer. I was a participant!

A hush fell over the stable as the labor progressed. With each cry of pain from Mary the animals seemed to wince right along with Joseph. Time seemed to stand still and its slow passage produced a tension in the air that was agonizing, but the agony was tempered by anticipation.

The voice of the One who spoke the universe into existence filled the stable with its high-pitched cry. I recall feeling at that moment as though all Heaven was looking down on us and smiling. The stars gleaming through the cracks in the roof seemed to twinkle more brightly, the animals collectively breathed a sigh of relief, Joseph looked at Mary with immeasurable love in his eyes, and then they both looked with awe at the little One in her arms—their son and their Savior.

A little later Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and looked for a place to lay Him so she could rest. Her eyes scanned the area for a suitable place to lay the infant and came to rest on me—the manger. She slowly got to her feet and moved in my direction. I couldn't read her mind and didn't know what she was going to do, but she came directly to me. After arranging the fod-

der a little and fluffing it up to be a little softer, she laid Jesus down.

I cannot explain the feeling of that moment or describe it with mere words. You might call it "an event" or you might call it a revelation. You might call it a manifestation; you might call it an epiphany. I do not know what to call it and I do not know how to describe it, but I do know that at that moment, I touched the Master!

Faith Lesson: Humility

It is interesting to consider the ways God could have chosen to send Jesus into the world. He could have sent Jesus to be born into a wealthy family surrounded by opulence where He would have been laid in the finest cradle available. God just as easily could have sent Jesus to be born into the family of a powerful government official where the reins of power would have been transferred to Him by default. But instead of those situations, Jesus was sent to a rough manger in a backward stable. By sending His Son to such a situation, God made the powerful statement that humility is an indispensable ingredient in the Christian life. What could be more humble than a stable? What could be more humble than a manger? With His entrance into the world, Jesus sent an indisputable message that humility really matters to God.

In the 1970's a well-known prosperity preacher proclaimed, "Jesus rode on a donkey, but I would rather ride in a pink, rose-covered Rolls-Royce." The arrogance contained in that statement is so flagrant that it is impossible to miss, but care must be exercised not to point fingers at individuals like this while failing to see the pride in our own hearts. You see, pride is insidious because it wears so many disguises. A person can be proud of fashionable clothing, but a person can also be proud of simple clothing. A person can be proud of a nice vehicle, and a person can also be proud that he does not have a nice vehicle to be proud of.

The opposite of pride is humility. Inherent in the simple way Jesus entered the world is the message that we as followers of

Christ, we as Christians, are to walk and live with humility permeating our lives as it did the life of Jesus.

Jesus was born in a simple stable in the undistinguished town of Bethlehem and later moved to another town of little significance: Nazareth. Jesus was not known as someone born in Rome, the capital city of the ruling power of the world at the time, nor was He known as a resident of Jerusalem, the city of David. God could have manipulated the situation to allow Jesus to have the reputation of a person associated with one of those great cities and the accompanying celebrity, but no, Jesus became known simply as the Nazarene. This detail about Jesus is crucial and we dare not overlook the importance of Christ's display of humility by not seeking or desiring a prestigious reputation of any kind.

Ask yourself whether the things you do in life are done to shape your reputation or God's. Ask yourself whether the things you do for others or even for the church are done to promote yourself or are done to glorify God. The singular focus of Jesus' life was to glorify His Father and that focus must be ours as well. His humility was displayed as He sought to burnish the image of His Father not His own.

Jesus also demonstrated His humility by not amassing wealth. Matthew 8:20 states that Jesus' life of humility was confirmed by His lack of a place to lay His head. Jesus was willing to be ridiculed by those of His countrymen who thought all men of distinction would have something tangible to show for themselves. Jesus also had to endure the verbal barbs of those who thought He was simply sponging off people by taking advantage of the generosity of others. But Jesus knew that to live a life of self-sacrifice that bordered on asceticism was necessary as an example for His followers. It was necessary because He understood that ingrained into every individual as a result of our humanity is the desire to impress others, gain prestige, and seek satisfaction in the accumulation of wealth.

Not only did Jesus manifest humility by not seeking a reputation and by not seeking riches, He also exhibited humility in being willing to be known as a carpenter's son. Jesus was a common

man who did remarkable things for both the common and uncommon because of an uncommon proclivity for humility. Titles, wealth, social position, and rank were all meaningless to Jesus. Meaningless? Yes, meaningless!

The mad scramble for recognition and rank many Christians are involved in must break the heart of God. Can't you just picture God looking down upon the earth and observing Christians frantically trying to make something of themselves merely for personal gain? Can't you see God shaking His head in pain? Can't you just picture God wondering why, with the life of Jesus as our example, Christians cannot understand that humility is something which certainly matters? You can see God in His patience waiting for His children to learn humility and when they don't, He sadly shakes His head and allows them to proceed through an experience that will break them of their pride.

Rank. Riches. Reputation. The three R's the world seeks after are enemies the Christian constantly needs to guard against. This is not to say that God does not choose to give His children rank, riches, or acclaim. He sometimes does and the Body of Christ benefits when these things are handled guardedly. When the sole focus of our life is to exalt ourselves and to try to be big and important, spiritual disaster lies around the corner.

Think about birds. Isn't it interesting that the sweetest music comes from the smallest birds? When was the last time you heard a pleasant song from an ostrich? Can you really say that the turkey is a sweet singer? The magnificent eagle, the undisputed master of the skies, does little more than scream. But it is the little birds, the canaries, the wrens, and the larks that sing the most sweetly. Is it possible that the sweetest notes to fall on the ears of the Father are those that emanate from the Christians who consider themselves the most insignificant? Is it possible that like the ostrich, we are posturing, like the turkey and the eagle, we are merely making noise? Is it possible that while we are absorbed in all that posturing and while making all that noise we feel smug because of our size not realizing how blatantly obnoxious we sound?

Seek to be small; strive to be humble. In doing so, the song of your life, that song begotten and perpetuated in humility, will be the sweetest of all.

Brother Paul David Skiles
Torreon Navajo Mission
Cuba, NM 87013

THE SINFULNESS OF SELFISHNESS AND SELF-PITY

Why are we selfish? Is it because we are sinful humans, filled with the flesh? The flesh is our old nature — the one we will battle with every day until we let God fight our battles for us. Matthew 26:41 says, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit is willing, but the **flesh** is weak." John 6:63 tells us that "the flesh profiteth nothing." Romans 7:25 says that the flesh serves the law of sin. Because we have the "old nature", we need Someone to free us. Christ came to give that freedom to us as sinful beings.

Selfishness is evidence of the old nature in our lives. There are many consequences of being selfish. Selfishness is the cause of much fear and anger. When we are angry, very often we make irrational moves and decisions. We wreck our home lives because we have allowed anger to grip hold of us. When we become angry at someone, we immediately become their slave. While we work, sleep, eat, or play, all we think about is that one we disdain. They constantly hound us.

There are many health problems that stem from our anger, caused by being selfish — ulcers, heart problems, fatigue, and so forth. If we are angry, our social life is hurt, too. Frankly, if we are selfish and full of self-pity, we are not fun to be around! People can tell if we are interested in their problems and joys, or if all we care about and want to talk about is our own success and comfort. Those who are in need of some help, or just a listening ear, will quickly by-pass us because we do not care for anyone but OURSELVES. Isolation only makes the self-pity grow into a bigger and more nasty problem.

There are many places and people that God would love to have us to be willing to touch with His love, but when all we see is me, Me, ME, He cannot use us. We miss out on a blessing each time there is an opportunity to serve somewhere but we cannot take time off from "sheltering and protecting ourselves." This kind of life very shortly gets dull and stressful. Nobody is so interesting that you want to look at, care for, and protect every minute of every day.

People who are selfish and self-centered are very sensitive. They cannot take any resistance or correcting because that hurts the "ME" that they must protect and shelter. They become easily discouraged and depressed, because life is full of mountains that need to be crossed, trials that need to be endured, and so forth. Only if we are willing to take a few bumps, receive some correction, and still strive on, will we conquer.

Seeing someone in need and investing some of our time and resources in them is an excellent way to get our eyes off ourselves and our problems. We will find that as we bless others, we receive the greatest reward. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

When we, through the filling of the Holy Spirit, get rid of our old selfish ways, there will be so many new and exciting areas and opportunities opened to us. People will enjoy being with us, and sharing their lives with us. Blessings will be received as we rejoice in the success of another and not just ourselves all the time. God will use us to share His love, and there is no greater feeling than to know we are encouraging someone on to a better life.

We cannot stay bogged down in the drudgery of "protecting ME". Enjoy the full life. Romans 8:2 says, "...the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36.

Sister Janell Meyers

WELCOME TO HOLLAND

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability. To try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it and to imagine how it would feel, it is like this....

When you are going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous trip-to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland?!?" you say, "What do you mean Holland??" I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place. So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for awhile and you catch your breath, you look around...and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills...and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts. But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy...and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say, "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever, go away, because the loss of that dream is a very, very, significant loss.

But, if you spend the rest of your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, very lovely things...about Holland.

No matter where or what our "Holland" is, may God help us to be content with being there.

In Christ's Love,
Brother Steven and Sister Susan Beachler

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:..." Psalm 139:14. What are we made of? "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Gen. 2:7. Bones - 206, miles of blood vessels, miles of nerves, pints of blood, two layers of skin, two eyes, two ears, two kidneys, two lungs, two legs, two sides of brain, two hands, two arms, two feet, eight fingers, two thumbs, ten toes, many muscles, heart, spleen, pancreas, diaphragm, intestines, stomach, spinal cord, and the list could go on. What a marvelous body God truly hath made!!

When all the parts are doing their jobs without complaining or being jealous of another part (aching, becoming infected, or rupturing) we can work and function well. When one part suffers it affects the whole body. I personally experienced this recently when my appendix became inflamed. I ached and was not able to function normally. Then the operation. It went well. Praise the Lord!! Then the recovery, I found out you use your belly muscles in many things you do. I must insert here a Thank You for all those who prayed and sent cards, God Bless You!

As I lie upon my bed I had to think of I Corinthians chapter 12 where Paul likens the church to a body. As was mentioned earlier there are many pieces, so precisely put together by God, that make up our human bodies. Each one does its own job and sometimes one will have to do another's if it is removed. So in the Spiritual body we have different abilities, capabilities and knowledge. We must all work together for the furtherment of Christ's

Kingdom day by day. "For the body is not one member, but many." I Cor. 12:14. Each part is important. Each person is important. Each task we do is important. If your eye stops functioning it makes it very hard to get around. The same is true in the spiritual body.

Then there is jealousy and envy of another one's position. You want to be a hand instead of a bone. Ask yourself where would the hand be without the bones. The bones are very important to the body, they give it shape and protection. The hands would not be able to function without the bones. The ones, so called, behind the scenes, the prayer warriors, those encouragers, are important!! So in what ever place you are remember and practice "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Col. 3:23-24. Dear ones, Satan is doing much to destroy the body. He is delighted when there is friction in the body. Let us give the oil of Love, daily, to the body and serve the Lord Christ! Amen.

Brother Tim Kasza
2500 W. Buchanan
Shelby, MI 49455

KENYA KNOTES

Greetings in Jesus name. We are maintaining good health here and the Lord continues to work in mysterious ways. Former bishop Andrew Ochino is gone, along with several other members as well. There were tears mixed with sighs of relief as people decided what God was telling them to do and if they would listen and what action they would take. Only God knows for sure their hearts and motives for leaving or staying. Because of the current instability, we have been staying close to home, waiting to see what will happen. Sometimes even the very next step is hard to see. They become steps of faith as we patiently trust and wait in the Lord.

May 8 begins one day minister training seminars to be held every two weeks. We will cover such topics as polity, doctrine,

Sunday school, financial reporting, Council Meetings and calling ministers. The leaders in Kenya have expressed much eagerness to begin. I pray for the Spirit's help in my preparations for these meetings.

There are many churches in Kenya, but many people still lack God's Word. We give Bibles to those individuals or families that have great desire, need and the ability to read, when we have sufficient supply. We are considering sponsoring a class for adults to learn to read Swahili. Swahili Bibles are difficult to find here because of a very long reason that I do not understand, dealing with printing and distribution rights and lack of funds. There are two versions of Swahili Bibles. One translated from the King James known as the "Union Version" and another based on a paraphrased version. Of course, it is the Union Version that is in short supply. I have people looking now for a Union Version source of these Bibles. If you have any insight into this please contact the African Mission Board.

I use my spare time to wax and polish the van. Otherwise I spend my days preparing for Thursday night Bible study, preparing a message for Sunday school, transporting people, writing necessary tracts, writing reports, writing letters, talking with members and visitors to the compound and keeping the house and van maintained. The first and last time I waxed the van was the first week of February. Very recently our family began Swahili lessons twice a week, something we should have done in January. Our daily struggle continues to be answering requests for assistance. Many times the squeakiest wheels have the smallest needs or needs brought about from a negligent lifestyle. These needs are thoroughly mixed with genuine needs for help. We continue to teach the principles of God's Word and search for His will for this hour, this day, this week and for this mission to Kenya.

God's Peace
Brother Tim Scofield

THE THIEF

I am a murderer

I am a thief

The things that I've done
Cause me much grief.
My punishment is come
It's just what I deserve
To be nailed to this cross
Is just, I'm sure.
The man to my left
Is called "King of the Jews"
So many don't believe
But I know that it's true.
The words that I speak
Don't sound like my own
But He receives them with happy tears
His face seems to glow.
He says, "Today you will live
With me in Paradise"
It sounds so sublime
It sounds so very nice.
I feel my spirit leave me
I let it go with joy
Now I'm saved forever
By faith just like a boy.
-Brother William Scofield

Greetings from Kenya,

It is the beginning of rainy season here, which means it's time to plant your shamba, or fields. Everyone is busy digging the fields and planting maize or beans. These are the two main crops. In the highlands, where we have a church, they will also plant potatoes.

This month we were able to help the families in need of maize seed. We thank God for providing for these families and ask Him to bless them with a bountiful harvest.

For the last two months we have been giving vegetable seed to members of our Churches. One bag of twelve kinds of vegetable seed for each family. This will provide them with all the main vitamins needed for better health. In the future they should be able to sell extra produce, from having saved seed and planting bigger gardens.

Last week we went to one of our churches that is located in the Rift Valley. The church is down in a valley, surrounded by mountains. This is some of the most beautiful country God created.

While we were there, I asked if any of the women had planted their seed yet. Two of the women had planted theirs sometime ago. Would we like to see their gardens?

They have a small stream of water that runs close to their gardens so they were able to plant without waiting for the rainy season.

Florence and I hiked up through the hills to the gardens. In case you do not know, Florence is the leader of all the women's groups here. I do not know what I would do without her. I thank God for her. As we hiked, the excitement grew for all of us. The women were so pleased to show their gardens to us.

They built a fence of sticks, thorn plants and cactus around their gardens to keep unwanted visitors out. So we climbed the fences. How exciting! There were rows of carrots, garlic, turnips, cabbage, sunflowers, greens (three varieties), onions, green peppers, and tomatoes two feet tall with blooms and small green tomatoes. What joy fills your heart as you see the first fruits of your labor. God is so good.

More than a garden was planted here. People from two different countries are working together to bring a better way of life.

I doubt I will ever plant another garden without thinking of this day and remembering the smiles of joy on these sisters' faces. I

thank God for allowing me to serve Him in Kenya.

Sister Terry Scofield

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless His work in the fields of labor here.

It is a pleasure for me to share with you this short message. Surely it has been a blessing to us here to join you and labor together for the Kingdom of God.

OUR GREAT SALVATION

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? Even if we do not care for our salvation, Angels do care. The prophets of the Old Testament were careful about the great Plan of God for salvation. They wanted to know in depth all about God's Plan to human beings. They intended to know how the price was to be paid through the death and the burial of Christ Jesus and how could it be manifested through His resurrection. They did not know how He could overcome sin, Satan, and death.

It is not only the prophets who desired to know what was revealed unto us. Angels themselves, desired to know about this divine Plan of God which was neither for the prophets nor angels, but it was preserved for us. Apostle Peter, puts this through in these words: "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." I Peter 1:10-12.

The Old Prophets could have revealed everything to let us know what the Bible tells us about this divine Plan unto us.

Even so, we do not know the great riches we have in our

salvation. This will lead us to captivity and spiritual poverty. For this not to happen, God sent us the Holy Spirit to teach us who He is and what He had planned for us through the Lord Jesus. Apostle Paul says (I Corinthians 2:12) "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

Many Christians do pray diligently on the things that already God has given them. I did so for a long period. When you do pray for what has been delivered to you, you will be wasting your time and God's. You have been given the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what God has given you through Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thanks: May God bless you.

Yours,
Brother Gilbert Amaswache
Box 616
Kapenguria, Kenya (EA)

THE PASSOVER FEAST

A cloud of surprise covered all the members of the church. Many stared at things with their eyes wide open. That morning of 12th April 1998 was a wonderful day that many of us will live to commemorate.

Things seemed to be turned upside down from what we expected. Something unusual was taking place. Sister Terry was familiar with everything. Brother Tim nodded hysterically for he was satisfied with what was going on. William and Matthew kept quiet for they understood the occasion. Other members were confused in a mixture of disbelief and excitement.

Church attendance broke the record. All seats were covered by children and many people who were anxious to listen to good news of the Passover feast. The service started earlier than usual, 9:30 A.M. The sermon being led by Brother Gilbert made everyone to feel as if Christ had to come the next minute.

After singing and having prayed, Brother Tim gave us anointed

teachings. He quoted different scriptures in support of the Pass-over feast. We were very much amazed because we had never put in practice whatever we read. But a day had come whereby we had to put scripture in life and scriptural in practice as believed by Dunkard Brethren Church.

The first cession of the service ended at around 1:00 P.M. This is the time our stomachs were totally empty. Intestines complained bitterly demanding their right. All children were discomfited. But when Sister Terry entered the church with a bucket and I followed with a huge sufuria the terrible situation in the stomach started cooling down. Within a moment the whole table was covered with different containers full of different types of cooked food. Sister Terry had prepared a traditional meal from sweet potatoes, chicken and delicious beverage.

I, myself, prepared Chapadi, rice, meat stew, broth and bread with butter. Sister Catherine came in with four different covered cakes, yellow, green, red and orange. Sister Alice prepared Sukumawiki and beans, while Sister Selina prepared rice. All these foods were bought by Sister Terry. We helped her in cooking.

All of these foods were to be served to one hundred eight people who attended the service that day. Everybody received what was enough for his or her stomach. Serving was efficient as youths helped us a lot. Children were served first and then adults followed. Everybody left the church happy spiritually and satisfied in the stomach.

The love of Christ manifested itself in us and we were all grateful. Actually this is something that has never happened in our church before. But we thank God for loving this much.

After filling our stomachs, we broke for a break, when the youths went to the field to play football and others volleyball. At around 4:00 P.M. we assembled in the church ready for the evening service. This lesson was very short. Brother Tim ministered unto us up to the end. He then transported people to their homes while Terry went home on foot.

The day broke in happiness and joy. It's a day we shall never

forget. Love in Kenya.

May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ
Sister Florence Ambundo

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

"Our weakness, God's strength"

In each age and stage of human history, man has looked for resources of power above and even outside himself. He has looked for power superior to his own, limited, moral, spiritual and physical prowess.

He first turned to animals, harnessing their strength to perform his tasks. Then he turned to "hydro power," water wheels to grind flour and the like. Then came steam, electricity, gasoline combustion and more recently the atom.

In following man's search for energy beyond his limitations, it becomes apparent that he becomes increasingly more dependent on God. Many have tried to usurp the position of the Creator in initiating force and energy. They do not understand the Psalm that says, "Power belongeth unto God."

In the process of human discovery, during which God has allowed a certain allotment of the power of the universe to rest in man's hands, one pathetic reality persists: man has never learned to control himself. The moral development of humanity has not kept pace with his mental and scientific progress. As long as man is at war with God, he will be controlled by human passions. He can learn to read the secrets of astronomy, to control light, to make servants of radio waves and boast of various victories but his head hangs in shame at the defeats experienced in attempting to conquest self.

Is the world getting better? Have we progressed to a warless, diseaseless, bigotless society of equality? Of course not. Man will not be able to change his nature outside of the power of God.

To bolster the idea of self-sufficiency, people believe that the world is getting better and better. They think that scientific and industrial progress is proof of that idea. In reality, we are not better than the Assyrians or Romans. We live for self advancement at the expense of others.

The only real and lasting improvement will occur in the lives of those who will embrace the teachings of Jesus and allow Him to become their Master. This is real progress. Our weakness in the hands of a powerful God is awesome. We can experience real strength in the Lord "and in the power of his might."

One of the real fallacies of our time is that man's mind is developed through education, which allows him to shed acrimonious passions and eventually to become master rather than slave. Both history and observation serve to debunk this concept.

In this world of perpetual human weakness, God offers us a weapon equal to the conquest of ourselves, victory over temptation and a shelter in the time of storm. If we yield ourselves completely to Jesus, we become powerful in mind and spirit.

Are we weak? Yes. But God offers to make us towers of strength. We need only to trust Him with all of our being. We will then become, in the words of Paul, a "new creature." Old things will pass away and all things will become new.

My weak friend, I close with this poem by Barbara E. Cornet:

I tried, myself to bring to pass
That which I thought should be;
I felt the Lord would profit by
A little help from me.
And so I worried and despaired
And vainly labored on
Until my fairest hopes had crashed
My choicest visions gone.

And then I knelt before my Lord,

Chastened, humbled, still
Ready to let Him work through me,
Ready to do His will.

And there it was I found success -
For then alone my Lord could bless!

Brother Len Wertz

IF ANY MAN SEEM TO BE CONTENTIOUS

I Corinthians 11:16, "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

We received a mailing that took a very negative approach concerning the wearing of the prayer veil or covering. Included in a correspondence resulting from a dialogue on the subject was a question we had never taken the time to research. "Did the women in the Old Testament wear a head covering or is it just a New Testament teaching?"

Our research on this subject caused us to re-think not only the command of the head covering but also what may have been involved in our opening verse. We found the statement "any **man**" to be of particular interest. Many times in Holy Scripture the word "man" is used in a generic sense which would include females also. However, taken within the context of this chapter, we believe that the word "man" here refers to the male only.

The popular teaching that this verse makes all the previous instructions given, especially the instruction for the covering of the woman's head, void and null is absolutely ridiculous and, we feel, completely without merit.

There are at least three areas where the brethren may have been contentious. The Apostle Paul addresses each of these in this chapter. The first of these is the headship topic. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ: and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." It is possible that those in leadership had forgotten that they also

were under authority. Added to this confusion is the possibility that the women may have sought to claim positions of authority. It is sometimes forgotten that not only is the sister's veiling a prayer veil but also a headship covering. It is to be a sign that she accepts the Scriptural teaching that men are to be in leadership positions. The fact that "the head of Christ is God," shows that this is not an argument of equality. It may be that, like in our day, the men abrogated their responsibility and wished to allow the women to assume positions of leadership in the Church.

The second place men may have been contentious is on the covering itself issue. Our study of the Old Testament leaves us with the impression that there was no direct command for a woman to cover her head. If we are wrong we welcome input on this subject. Strangely enough, there was a command for men to cover their heads. This command dealt at least primarily with the high priests. It is possible that Judaizers within the gatherings may have refused to obey the command to pray with uncovered heads. We believe that at least one of the reasons for the command for men to pray with uncovered heads was because Jesus Christ is now our high priest and no man can rightfully fill this position under the New Testament dispensation.

The third place men may have been contentious is on the hair subject. There are varying opinions about just how long the men normally wore their hair at the time of this writing. There are those who contend that the men in the Church of that time wore their hair in a fashion very similar to the type of hair cut worn by conservative types today. Others believe the hair cut was similar to that worn by such groups as the Amish. Still others would argue that the hair was worn long according to our modern standards. The Bible does not give us a specific hair length but it does set a standard. We believe that hair length must be left to an individual's convictions to a degree but that, in this case, the current styles of men's hair considered long by today's standards not be acceptable.

The Apostle Paul goes on to tell us what the results of these contentions were. "For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly

believe it." The subject of the place women have in the church has certainly brought division. There are some groups that will not allow their women to read Scripture in a Bible study setting. Needless to say, their women are forbidden to speak on an issue in such a setting. There is at least one church body that will not allow women to take any part in a church council. At least one group will not allow the sisters to take part in prayer during an examination service. It is not our desire to find fault with these groups but merely to point out how divisions can be found in churches today. The subject of women preachers has invaded the vast majority of denominations today. This subject has not only caused division between differing groups but within bodies of believers and even within congregations.

The Apostle Paul also says that the contentions have brought about heresies. When those in leadership become contentious towards established practices it often leads to heresy. We often wonder why those who consider themselves Bible believers are willing to follow the heretics rather than the established thinking concerning the head covering for women.

Let us not be contentious but follow Christ and the Holy Word.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

AFRICA MISSION BOARD REPORT

Having missed the publication deadline for conference business, we will supply our report in the Bible Monitor.

The labors in Africa have been active during the last year. Last Fall Bro. Paul Stump and Rudy Shaffer visited Uganda and Kenya. In December 97 and January 98 Bro. Paul Stump and Verling Wolfe and their wives located and set up a mission compound in Makutano, Kenya. The Scofield family arrived in Uganda in January 98 to acquaint themselves with the work in Uganda, and then settled in at the mission in Makutano, Kenya.

The Scofields have visited the various churches, in Kenya

and Uganda, and have worked with the various individuals on both a spiritual level and have attempted to supply many of the natural needs. With so many physical needs, it is difficult to know what to supply, and how to limit our assistance within a reasonable budget constraints. They have worked on several tracts for the natives, and now are focused on teaching the ministry which are laboring with the people.

We are looking for another family to go to Kenya leaving this coming June 14, just after conference. The board has felt a second family there will provide moral support and opportunity to discuss impressions, ideas, problems and issues which they are facing from day to day.

Funds have been very close, but adequate thus far. We have been spending between \$2500 to 4000 per month so far. While attempts have been made to reduce the expenses after the initial start up expenses, we expect this level of spending to continue with the second family going to Kenya in June. Transportation continues to be our most expensive item, with fuel being \$3.50-4.00 per gallon.

Their home has a telephone and water, but they still have not been connected to the electric, even though it has been promised again and again. They are not far from the power lines, but things get done whenever they see fit in Africa. Their water (from a public water supply) needs constant purification and contains a lot of sediment and dirt and needs to be boiled for drinking.

There has been significant tribal unrest in the Makutano area recently, and the staff is being very cautious about where they go and travel. The military has been involved trying to keep peace, and at the time of our writing this article, they are stationed and occupying the building where we have been having services at Makutano. The town of Kaptulawa (where one of our churches is located) was evacuated because of the fighting. Thousands of cattle are missing in the area further heightening tensions, which according to the Pocott tribal belief, all cattle belong to the Pocott tribe. While the Scofields do not consider it unsafe to continue to stay in the Makutano area, we ask that you please pray for their

safety, especially at this time.

Bro. Andrew Ochino has found another church from the USA (Missouri), to sponsor his "ministry" thus taking a few of the other leaders with him. He was dissatisfied with our teachings concerning musical instruments in worship, polygamy (in practice overlooking it, even while teaching against it) and wanted all the ministry to be paid. His approach to the ministry was becoming more and more divergent from our understanding of the teachings of the Scripture. We are continuing to work with the local leadership, with our emphasis on instructing the leadership in the Gospel doctrines and teachings. The Scofield's are having the local ministry come to the mission one day each week and they are conducting teaching sessions with them. They are emphasizing the doctrines and teachings of the Scripture, to better prepare them to minister to their congregations. It is truly amazing how poorly some of the ministry know the scriptures, while others are quite well versed in the Scripture, but do not fully understand its implications in their lives.

We beg for your prayers on behalf of the labor in Kenya, and as a board that we might be given the wisdom and discernment needed to make the many decisions that we face in the future, wisely and in God's will and leading.

Respectfully submitted.
The African Mission Board

OBITUARY

GRACE SURBEY

Sis. Grace M. Surbey, formerly of Littlestown, Pennsylvania, died March 19, 1998 in the Brethren Home at Cross Keys, Pennsylvania. She was 87. Born December 1, 1910, near Cumberland, Maryland, she was the daughter of the late George Edward and Martha (George) O'Brien. She was predeceased by her husband, Howard J. Surbey, in October 1982.

Sis. Surbey lived in Taneytown, Maryland for many years and was a member of the Walnut Grove Dunkard Brethren Church

there. She had worked at The Cambridge Shoe Company in Littlestown, Pennsylvania but most of her life she was a housewife. Grace will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by three daughters: Dorothy DePalma and husband, Joseph, MaryAnn Whitmore and husband, Kenneth, all of Frederick, Maryland, and Carolyn Kauffman and husband William of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A sister and two brothers also survive: Ethel Leatherman and husband Virgil, Herbert O'Brien and wife Dottie, all of Littlestown, Pennsylvania, and Emory O'Brien and wife Francis of Purgitsville, West Virginia. Grace will also be missed by dear companions, Selina and Dan Smith and children of Littlestown, Pennsylvania. She leaves eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, a brother-in-law Clarence Surbey, of Amboy, Indiana and a sister-in-law Marie Surbey of Edon, Ohio. Many nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services were held March 21, 1998 at Little's Funeral Home with Elder Virgil Leatherman officiating assisted by Patrick Whitmore. Molly Kauffman, a granddaughter played and sang "Amazing Grace." Family remembrances were given by Patrick Whitmore. Bearers were grandsons, Edward Ogle, Steven Whitmore, Galen Rice, Stan Whitmore, David Rice, and Patrick Whitmore. Interment was in Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

The family wishes to thank those who sent cards, phone calls, flowers, and condolences. May God bless each of you.

TIMOTHY S. BEACHLER

Timothy S. Beachler, 2, went to be with Jesus, Thursday, March 26, 1998, from his home near Wabash, Indiana.

Timothy was born September 18, 1995, in Peru, Indiana, to Steven and Susan (Miller) Beachler. It was evident at his birth that Timothy would not be as other children, running and playing. He was diagnosed with Proteus Syndrome. In spite of his many problems, he always had a sweet spirit and a ready smile. God used him to touch many lives during his short stay here.

Timothy is survived and will be missed by his parents, Steven

and Susan, four brothers; Benjamin and Stephanie (Heisey), Taylorsville, Mississippi, Chris, Kristofer, Jonathan, and one sister, Emily all at home, one nephew, Brad and one niece, Megan, Taylorsville, Mississippi, maternal grandparents, Maurice and Marjorie Miller, Modesto, California, paternal grandparents, Herman and Eileen Beachler, North Manchester, Indiana and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

A service was held at 2:00 P.M., Sunday, March 29, 1998, at the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church with Brother Robert Carpenter and Brother Lloyd Lorenz officiating. Burial was at the North Manchester Old German Baptist Church Cemetery. "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." II Samuel 12:23.

We want to thank each one of you who helped in any way with Timothy. He was such a blessing to us and many others. Your prayers are so vital and helpful. God bless you all.

In Christ's Love,

Brother Steven, Sister Susan Beachler and family

MARRIAGE

SMELTZER-MAJUSICK

Brother Ronald Smeltzer, son of Lee Smeltzer and Bonnie Sweitzer of Pennsylvania, was united in marriage with Miss Stacy Majusick, daughter of Walter and Sandra Majusick of Ohio. The wedding was held October 18, 1997, at the Church of the Brethren, Troutwood, Ohio. The ceremony was conducted by Brother David Rice. The newlyweds are residing at 6274 Georgetown-Vernon Road, Lewisburg, OH 45338.

MEETING NOTICES

June 6-10 - 1998 General Conference, West Milton, Ohio.

July 12-19 - Revival Meeting, Hart, Michigan

July 24-August 2 - Revival Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

August 9-16 - Plevna, Indiana

August 15-23 - Swallow Falls, Maryland

August 16-23 - Dallas Center, Iowa

August 30-September 6 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

LOVEFEAST NOTICES

July 18 - Hart, Michigan

August 15 - Plevna, Indiana

August 22 - Dallas Center, Iowa

August 22 - Swallow Falls, Maryland

NEWS ITEM

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation has chosen July 24 to August 2 for Revivals. Brother Mark Andrews has consented to bring God's Word for our refreshing. We would appreciate your presence and prayers that souls might be saved. 7:30 is the time for evening service.

We are rejoicing in the addition of Carma and Bryan Wray by the right hand of fellowship. May God extend His blessings.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1998

July 5 - Israel Obeys God's Commands Utterly - Joshua 10:28-43.

1. How can we utterly obey God's commands today?
2. Why did God give Israel victory over all these cities and their kings?

July 12 - Patience - Ps. 37:7-9, Lam. 3:26-27, II Tim. 2:24-25.

1. How long shall we wait patiently upon the Lord?
2. Why is patience so important in the life of a servant of the Lord?

July 19 - God Conquers All Obstacles - Joshua 11:1-14.

1. Because of what should we be afraid today?
2. Why did God command to cripple all the horses and burn all the chariots?

July 26 - As The Lord Commanded - Joshua 11:15-23, (homestudy-Josh. 12).

1. How should we live so that it might be said of us, as was said of Joshua, "He left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded"?
2. God could have given Israel the land without them having to conquer the inhabitants, so then why did God make them fight for the land?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1998

July 5 - A Good Name - Pro. 22:1, Ec. 7:1, Acts 6:2-4, Ill John 14.

1. Why is having a good name of so great value?
2. Explain the statement, "Men of honest report".

July 12 - Believer's Walk - Rom 6:4, I John 2:6, Gal. 5:16, Eph. 5:2, I John 1:7, Eph. 4:1-3.

1. How do we "walk in newness of life"?
2. How is it possible to walk as Christ walked?

July 19 - Liberty - Isa. 61:1-3, John 8:31-36, Rom. 8:16-21, Gal. 5:13, I Pet. 2:13-16.

1. From what will the truth make us free?
2. How could we wrongfully use "Liberty for an occasion to the flesh"?

July 26 - Service - Matt. 21:28-32, I Cor. 15:58, James 2:14-26.

1. How can we be "Always abounding in the work of the Lord"?
2. What kind of service must we perform to show our faith?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXVI

JULY 1998

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

The church has one Foundation, 'Tis Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation, By water and by word;
From heav'n he came and sought her, To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth,
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With ev'ry grace endued.

The church shall never perish! The dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain and cherish, Is with her to the end.
Tho' there be those that hate her, And false sons in her pale,
Against or foe or traitor She ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace for evermore,
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious Shall be the church at rest.

-Samuel J. Stone

A LIVING BODY

When death strikes, there is an instant change in the appearance of the body of that person. No matter how talented the mortician may be at making the corpse seem lifelike, he will fail. Those who view the remains of the deceased may remark that the departed looks almost lifelike. The fact that such a comment is made reveals the great gulf between the living and the dead. A few minutes spent at a funeral home will quickly show the difference between the living and the dead.

Those who linger before the death summons is sounded, may grow very still and even appear to not be living, but there is always a little movement, a breath, a sigh, or moan that indicates that the great exchange has not yet occurred. Some may be in a coma, some may not be mentally aware, some may express their desire to be done with this life, but until God sets the limit, they continue to live and breathe. As soon as that last breath is taken, the last image is seen and the last sound is heard, a great change takes place. Although just a moment before that body was the dwelling place of a significant life, capable of love, anger, physical feats, intellectual knowledge and many other processes identified with life, now it is cold, stiff, unfeeling and unknowing. All manner of emotions could be shared right up to that transforming moment. Afterwards there could be no sharing. The voice is stilled, the twinkle gone from the eye, the strength gone from the limbs. Now there remains only the cold clay, that deserves respectful handling as the former dwelling

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place of the spirit of man and hopefully of the Spirit of God.

When the spirit of life is present there is a living body, but when it departs the body becomes cold, still and unfeeling. Just as the natural spirit of life animates the physical body so the Holy Spirit gives life to the Spiritual body. When the Holy Spirit makes its abode in the body of a believer, there is spiritual life. That person is now capable of understanding Spiritual things. Before they were foolishness to him, but with the interpretive powers of the Holy Spirit they now make perfect sense. The Bible no longer is a dull, uninteresting book, but the Word of God with a living message for the believer.

Not only does the Spirit give life to individuals, but also to the Church. The Church is the body of Christ. It is the Bride of Christ. Just as the bride becomes a part of her husband through the marriage union, so the Church is joined to Christ. As the earthly body of Christ, she represents Him to the world. As He dwells at the Father's right hand, the Church shares the good news with a lost and dying world.

There is as much danger that a church may die as an individual. Just as the body from which the living spirit has departed becomes cold and stiff so may the church that has become disconnected from her source of life. A church that has lost the Holy Spirit as its source of life becomes a body that may try to imitate spiritual life, but will be unsuccessful. Instead there will be formality, ritual, and a social emphasis given to the gospel. When the blood-stained cross, the plan of salvation, a Biblical lifestyle and a willingness to share the gospel have disappeared, the life of that body has departed. A Church without the Holy Spirit is as dead as any corpse in the graveyard.

The living Church will have activity, but not just man's activities and programs. The Church's activity will be that which is sanctioned and instituted in the Bible. A living church will be sharing the gospel with others who need it. A living church may not have all her activities as organized as they could be. Many mistakes may be made. She may be inefficient in carrying out her calling. She may waste resources in trying to do her task. All these failures are but signs that she is alive and struggling to do the right thing. The dead

Church is "at ease in Zion," while the living Church is trying to do the Lord's will.

A living person can express love and concern, but one who is dead can not express or respond to these emotions. The living Church expresses love for her Lord, for her members and for the lost. That love may be shown in emotional attachment, in Spiritual teaching or in Godly discipline. The dead Church may spend much money and promote many social programs, but it fails to share the love of the Lord because the Holy Spirit is not present.

There is a great difference between the living and the dead. There is as great a difference between a living and a dead church. We should each desire life. We should each desire to be a part of the living Church.

Are you alive? Spiritually alive?

M.C.Cook

THREE PHOTOGRAPHS

One evening as we were walking at a local mall, gliding briskly past all of the open doors and brightness, my eyes were riveted to a series of photographs. I stopped! There in the lower corner of the window was displayed a beautifully framed set of three photographs. The beauty and the finesse of the framing and the matting did not stop me. I stopped to study the content. I may not remember the exact details of the photograph, but I remember the impression that was stamped in my spirit.

The first photograph was centered on a giant of a lighthouse. Obviously a man-made edifice, it jutted up from the bedrock which had been exposed along the shore. The camera angle was that of a helicopter view looking down upon the tapered pillar of stone, which stood dark and solid against its collar of white and green foam. About two-thirds of the height of the lighthouse was being enveloped by a crashing wave of the ocean like a white fluffy garment being thrown about the shoulders of the solitary lighthouse.

Taken only seconds later, the second photograph showed how the wave had advanced and wrapped its folds of water farther around the curvature of the solid rock. Suddenly, I noticed a man standing

at the base of the lighthouse in front of an open door. He looked so nonchalant. Perhaps he was holding a cup of coffee and mildly checking out the weather.

My mind and eyes leaped to the third photograph to see what happened to the man! I could hear the roaring, crashing waves. I was experiencing the smell of the ocean and the salt spray that would practically drown you even before the wave rolled you under itself. In my heart I was screaming to the man to get back inside the lighthouse!

But the man was just standing there, calmly watching as the wave subsided and spilled over the rocks around him and the foam settled into the water. He had seen it happen many times before. The power of the wave was broken over the solid rock that he stood beside and upon.

Do you and I stand upon and beside a solid rock and a pillar of protection like the lighthouse keeper? Have we placed our fullest faith in the surest foundation of Jesus Christ?

In I Corinthians 3:11 Paul reminds us: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." There is nothing else in this universe that will strengthen and protect us and empower us to withstand the onslaught of the crashing waves of sin. Jesus' foundation has already been laid for us. Believing faith will cause us to stand secure in His love.

In II Timothy 2:19, Paul also wrote: "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." What does "depart from iniquity" mean in the context of the lighthouse keeper? Wisdom has taught him that if he walks around the lighthouse, stands on the ocean side, and faces the mountainous waves, then he will certainly be washed out to sin and drowned in his iniquities! His faith in the power of the Holy Spirit to break the force of the temptation will keep him on the shore side of the lighthouse! Some things in life are just not worth experiencing. They are far too destructive! "Depart from iniquity" and stand on the shore side to allow the Holy Spirit to break the power of sin.

Standing on the shore side has another eternal benefit. That

focus and position keeps our eyes upon the shore, which is home. Our home is really in Heaven. As we maintain our focus upon being with Jesus in Heaven, then we can relax about a lot of things in this life. The temptations of sin may be exploding nearby, but they have no power over us, as we are faithful in Christ and keep our eyes upon Heaven.

Brother David Rice

ON PREACHING SERMONS

From the days of the Apostles to the present time, preaching has been a primary way for Christians to communicate God's Word to other men. The account given of the early Christians who were scattered because of the persecution of one named Saul, is that they "went everywhere preaching the word."

This same Saul, whom we know now as the Apostle Paul, testified that he was not sent to baptize, but rather to "preach the gospel." I Cor. 1:17. In his first letter to the Corinthians he furthermore emphasizes that he did not preach with "enticing words of man's wisdom", but rather "in demonstration of the Spirit and power." His concern was that man's faith would not rest "in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

As Christians generally and as preachers specifically we ought to share the Apostle's concern. Faith that has its foundation in the skills and gifts or charisma of men will not stand the tests of time or eternity. How then do we approach the idea of becoming a "better" preacher? Is it counterproductive for the preacher to give attention to his own personal methods, skills and delivery? Does it offend the Holy Spirit to suggest that the preacher could improve in his habits or his grammar or his preparation?

In all fairness, we concede that there are and have been in the past, preachers who were effective and loved by their congregations, who would not have rated highly in such areas as grammar or efficient delivery. Even though we acknowledge this fact, can it rightly be used by preachers as justification for indifference toward their own weaknesses of method and habit? I think not. Giving diligence to personal improvement as a preacher need not be viewed

as positive evidence of personal pride or leaning on the wisdom of man.

With this in mind, I share seven aspects of preaching sermons.

PRAYER Preaching is many things. It is teaching. It is proclaiming. It can be a message of warning. Sometimes it will be a message of comfort. Some preaching will be prophetic in the sense that it will evaluate in the light of the Word current events and trends in the world. In all of this the preacher must see himself as much more than an academic. He is one called by God to be the voice of God to the people. This is not a calling that should result in inflated egos or a grasping for power and influence. Rather it should cause he who is called to fall on his face before God lest he would ever not take seriously his calling.

If the preacher is to deliver God's message he needs to communicate with God. Prayer is fundamental to communion with God. Without honest prayer, preaching will drift toward an academic exercise. In prayer, the burden begins to develop, the eyes are opened to needs, and the stirring of the Spirit will be felt. Furthermore, the failings and faults of the preacher will be revealed when the knee is bent before the Father. It is necessary for the preacher to know his shortcomings. Sin in the heart will seal the lips. Failure in one's dealing with others will close doors of opportunity. The character of the preacher has a great bearing on the fruitfulness of his labors.

PREPARATION The techniques of preparation will be as varied as the personalities of the preachers. Some prefer few notes while others use detailed notes. Some preachers prepare a message far in advance of its delivery while others prefer to prepare messages just before they are preached. At times there will of necessity be sermons preached with little time to prepare.

It has been said that poor preparation makes long sermons. Certainly we recognize that it cannot truthfully be said that all longer sermons have been poorly prepared. Yet, most preachers have had the experience of getting more lengthy when they were less prepared than they should have been. Peter closes his second epistle with the encouragement to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Good sermons are rooted in both grace and knowledge. A lack of grace creates difficulties be-

cause the preacher will manifest personal attitudes that can hinder the message, no matter how truthful it might be. You cannot make a clean separation of the personality and attitudes of the preacher and the truths he declares. Truth will stand regardless men's personalities, but a lack of grace can greatly diminish the desired effectiveness of the truth proclaimed.

PASSION Sleepy preachers make sleepy hearers. If the truth has not moved the preacher the preacher will not move the congregation. Preach convictions, not possibilities. However, the pulpit is not a soapbox where frustrations can be vented. Frustrations lack a sense of the authority of the Word. Simple truthfulness spoken with a quiet conviction is always more powerful than impassioned frustrations.

It should be stated here that a raised voice does not necessarily prove conviction or give authority to the words spoken. Yet the preacher should always speak loud enough and clearly enough for all to understand. Some preachers have a more natural voice than others to accomplish this, but any preacher can improve his delivery by being aware of his needs.

PURPOSE It is good for the preacher to ask himself as he prepares his message, "What is the purpose of this sermon?" If his purpose is only to "fill the time", that is all he will do. Audiences will respond to messages with a clear purpose. Rambling and meandering is an effective way to undermine the authority of the Word. It will deaden its convicting power.

There is virtue and power in brevity. Brevity does not necessarily mean sermons short in minutes but it well could. Excess wordiness dilutes and weakens purpose. Every sermon will have an introduction, but it needs to be relatively brief. When we listen to a sermon we from the beginning ask ourselves, although it may be unconsciously, what is the point or purpose of this message? If after several minutes the purpose of the message is not clear, audiences will begin to lose interest.

Audiences likewise weaken in attention when there is an over amount of words and effort to make a point. This typically happens when the preacher keeps repeating a point in different ways to make sure the point is clear. It is useful to briefly review the points of a

message, but care needs to be taken to avoid excess.

PRUNING We are creatures of habit. Preachers can develop habits that are distracting to the listeners. One such habit is crutch words or phrases. These are words or phrases used over and over but add no meaning to the message. Examples of this are phrases like, "I believe", "from time to time". Likewise the preacher should avoid using words or phrases that identify with modish language of the day. New crutch phrases have a way of creeping into the preacher's vocabulary. A loving and tactful wife can be of much assistance in helping her preacher husband prune out these unnecessary and distracting words and phrases. Likewise the preacher's wife can be a help to her husband in developing proper grammatical structure if this is a problem.

The purpose of pruning is to improve. While some might believe it is an evidence of pride to be concerned about these matters, could we not say it might be an evidence of pride to resist improvement and growth.

PROMPTNESS We have all heard the debate on how long a sermon should be. At times individuals have stated some quite extreme opinions. A little observation reveals that different settings reflect different customs and expectations. While some groups of Christians might be accustomed to sermons of an hour or more, other groups would be uncomfortable with messages of that length. The preacher needs to have a sensitivity to the setting and congregations ought to give their preachers a little liberty. Respecting other speaker's time, if there is more than one on the program, is simply a matter of charity. The opening devotions of any service ought not to dominate the meeting, whether it is the Sunday School or Church services or any other service.

The human weakness of self-importance can cause the preacher to abuse the matter of time. If the audience senses any of the spirit "what I have to say is important, so just sit there until I am done", the message probably becomes less effective because it is tainted with a self-honoring spirit.

Another habit the preacher ought to strive to avoid is adding more comments on the message after the closing song or closing prayer. As a basic rule when the message is finished, do not add

more later. Occasionally it may be appropriate, but it is not a recommended habit.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION People need scriptural truths applied to their own lives in practical ways. We need more than principles, we need applications. Principles without applications are meaningless. The less mature members of the body of Christ may need help more often than the mature to apply the Word to real life situations. Theological dissertations that leave audiences asking, "What did he say" are not very profitable. The preacher should be willing to preach on a wide range of subjects found in the Word. It is too easy to fall into a pattern of only preaching certain types of messages. A congregation who only heard messages on salvation would be an anemic crowd. Conversely, if all the congregation heard were sermons on how to dress as Christians, they likewise would not be very well fed. There is need for many types of sermons if the congregation is to grow towards perfection. Certainly it should always be clear to the hearers that there is no salvation outside of a personal faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. There will be a mixture of "milk" and "strong meat". We need sermons that instruct on the issues of marriage, raising children, dealing in the business world and a host of other subjects. Trends, fads and activities that tend to lead Christians away from God need to be identified. It seems that some preachers rarely, if ever, muster the spiritual gumption to tackle these issues. These are subjects that cannot be preached on without much study, much observation and much prayer. Good sermons will appeal to the authority of the Word and make application of the Word to today's world.

The Apostle Paul's encouragement to Timothy was "make full proof of thy ministry." The desire of our Lord is not that ministers view themselves as professionals, but rather that they pour their heart and life into being the best minister they can be, using their gifts and resources to the fullest. In many ways, congregations will reflect the quality of their leadership. This is a sobering thought.

Brother Dennis St. John

WHO AM I

Who am I to be living in this day and age of the world? What is my need and my purpose? My life is pretty well spent and what good purpose has it been to God and my fellow man?

Who am I? Exodus 3:11-12. "And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee;..."

God certainly needs men and women to be lights in this dark world. Who am I that I could say no to God? Jonah tried to turn away from God's purpose and after three days and nights in the whale's belly he was ready to speak God's word.

God promised Moses he would be with him. God has promised to supply all our needs according to His riches in Glory. Who am I that I can say no to God?

I Sam. 18:18, "And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?"

Why would Jesus choose such a one as I to become His son, when I and my father's house are a part of his creation. We are among the millions that have not glorified His name as we should.

Oh the Lord of God that He would say to me! I will make you fishers of men and raise from the dust to be heir of Glory.

Only one life and it will soon be past and only what has been done for Christ will last.

During World War II, I was called to become a soldier. But who was I that I could say no to my Lord when He wanted me to be His soldier, not to destroy life, but to save life. It was hard to leave wife and child and to be thousands of miles from them, but to be a good soldier of Jesus, I must go. I found comfort in the old hymn, "God is still on his throne and he will remember his own. The trials oppose us and burdens distress us — he never will leave us alone."

I had consolation in going to C.P.S. Camp that we were all going for the same purpose. There were a few in the camp of a hundred seventy-five who did not seem to have the same purpose. Some

took the name of the Lord in vain and were heard swearing and did a few other things that did not show much love for their Lord. But when I look back on camp life there was a blessing in preparing me for future life.

II Sam 7:16-18 Nathan the prophet spoke unto David saying, "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. Then went king David in, and sat before the Lord, and he said, Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?"

The reward for living and serving the Lord is forever, so let us hold on to eternal life and follow the Lord.

Mark 14:18-19, "And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?"

Matt. 26:25, "Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said."

Mark. 14:21, "...good were it for that man if he had never been born." Judas realized later his reward of iniquity only brought more sorrow when he realized he had betrayed innocent blood.

Oh the joy of being a disciple of Jesus and being born into a Heavenly Kingdom. Let us take up our cross and follow Him.

Brother Frank D. Shaffer

KENYA KNOTES

Greetings dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus name!

At this time we are making last day preparations for the arrival of Jeremiah, Debra and Hosanna Johnson. We are also trying to gather all necessary information for when the Mission Board meets at conference. This is sometimes difficult because so much is happening or changing at any given moment. Let me tell you in more detail of at least one thing that happened here.

A man and his friend came to our compound seeking medical and food assistance. Actually, they walked in and found me in the

yard out front attempting to wash the van. He greeted me and began in Swahili describing and pointing to what looked like open wounds one would receive by falling off a moving vehicle only yesterday. They were not bleeding but they were open and large. I called to Gilbert, one of our ministers, a carpenter, in the garage, building Hosanna's bed, to come help me talk to this man. We learned that these were not wounds but sores from a disease he had. He also showed us papers indicating \$110.00 worth of medicine needed for this disease that he said is incurable. I had to go into the house because I knew if I did not I would soon be on the ground needing assistance, myself. The Grandview Church can testify about my weak head concerning such topics.

Anyway, Gilbert continued the interview in the yard. I asked Terry to go see what she could see. Terry looked and listened, then she looked at her books. She did not recognize his skin disease but his feet had a condition that attacked his toes and would slowly pinch them off one by one if they were not amputated. The day was Friday and we could not take him to a doctor until Monday. We could not help this man until a doctor had verified treatment. \$110.00 is more than I thought we should spend on a total stranger for an unknown cure.

His friend suggested that if he went home to Ludwar, 280 km away, his family would be able to help him. That seemed to be an agreeable solution. We could buy him food and taxi fare without having to trust him to spend the money wisely. So that is what we did. I put a sheet over the van seats, took him to pack his things, bought two loaves of bread and a bunch of bananas, and paid the conductor his taxi fare to Ludwar. Ah yes, another Kenyan we have helped in time of need.

The next day, Hosea and Gilbert regreted to inform me that the man with the sores had split a part of the taxi fare with the conductor, bought some opium and was selling and smoking it. He never left. I was really angry. He lied. I believed him. I could see his sores! He wasted God's money. I gave it to him. Why should I expect anything else? Why get angry? This was not the first time nor will it be the last time somebody will take God's money from me with false motives. I did the best I could to ensure the money was

spent wisely. We washed our hands, washed the sheet, said our prayers and asked for strength. The van still needs to be washed.

Are we so much better than this man with the sores? What must we look like to God with all our sores of unrighteousness? We pray to God for forgiveness. We wear clothes that follow doctrine but we sell the blessings of God to fulfill the lust of the flesh. We do not watch television but what about questionable videos on our computer monitor? We can keep our house and car maintained but the tithe will need to wait until later. We are saved by grace and sealed unto the day of redemption but how many sores of sin do we keep in our lives so that we can enjoy the pleasures of this world?

Upon self-examination I find I have no clean fingers to point at this man. Oh, Lord forgive me of my anger and self-righteousness. Change my heart. Grant me wisdom to be able to help man with his daily bread and reveal to him the bread of life.

God's Peace
Brother Tim Scofield

Another Wednesday women's meeting is over. As we load up the van, to take the women home, I realize it will soon be dark. I decide it would be better to deliver Sister Milka home first since she lives the farthest away. She lives about ten kilometers from our place. With the bad roads, it takes about twenty minutes to get there.

As we are leaving Milka's home we notice a woman and her daughter flagging us down. I seldom pick up extra passengers, as I would get no other work done but deliver people. We drive on by. It was almost dark and not a good time to pick up passengers. We no sooner passed them when I knew the Lord was telling me to stop and give them a ride.

The woman came to the window. Could we please give them a ride to the Kapenguria hospital? Her daughter was having a miscarriage. Of course, we help them. The daughter climbed in the van and went to the back bench seat. The woman ran into a house and came back with a little girl around four years old. She is the daughter of the woman in labor.

The road back to Kapenguria is a dirt road that is more like a trail than a road. When you finally hit blacktop at Aromaget the black top is so full of pot holes, it is not much better than the dirt road. I took it slow. The poor girl was in so much pain, you could hear her crying.

Just as we reached the hospital, the baby was born. I quickly parked the van. Everyone climbed out. Florence climbed in the van to help the mother as I ran around the van to join her. Florence carefully wrapped the little girl baby in a blanket. She was alive, but four months premature. We had no supplies for birthing with us. It just never crossed my mind to carry any. Be sure we will from now on. We tried to make the mother comfortable and waited for the placenta to come. By the time the placenta came, the baby was hardly breathing. Florence used a ziploc bag I had for a rubber glove and picked up the placenta. She put it in with the baby. We covered the baby's head, knowing it was almost dead. The mother did not have any tears over the death of her child.

Everyone climbed back in the van. We started on the trip back to the woman's home. After a time of silence the church sisters began to sing songs of praise. We arrived at the home and Florence carried the baby into the house. I carried the little girl. We made sure the mother was comfortable and all bowed their heads in prayer. It was a beautiful time. Songs of praise were sung all the way back to town. The song leader was Roselynn. She lost three babies at birth. She was holding her four month old son. I know in her heart she was thanking God for her baby. In some ways it was a very beautiful and touching time. It was also a very sad time. This young woman was living alone. Her husband left her when she became pregnant by a boyfriend. The boyfriend also left. She has no income and a small child to care for. She did not need another child. She took the path so many Kenya women take. She aborted the baby. Here new life is not a gift from God, it is a burden. This problem runs so deep in their lives here. Much prayer is needed for the people here. Much prayer is needed for the unborn child.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Sister Terry Scofield

WAR IN KENYA

There is war in Kenya. The Pokot and the Markwet tribes are fighting.

One Sunday afternoon we were playing volleyball at the Makutano show grounds, where our church is located. Several big military trucks came driving in and started unloading supplies, such as tents, chairs, camp stoves, and so forth. It was not long before they made us leave. The Kenya military is now stationed at the Mankutano show grounds, with their officers sleeping in our church, so we have church at our house now.

The military is searching peoples' homes for guns and stolen cattle. There have been Pokot raids in the towns around Makutano, but as of yet, none here in town.

Helicopters are flying in and out of the show grounds daily, bringing in more troops. If anyone, that is not a military officer, is found inside the show grounds they are thrown in jail.

The Pokot and Markwet are both armed with guns, so there is heavy fighting and it is rapidly making its way towards Makutano.

A big problem in Africa is that everyone speaks a different language. This makes it hard to communicate. Rather than try to communicate, they just kill each other. Their only hope is Jesus Christ, but, unfortunately, they are more loyal to their tribe than they are to God. Life goes on in Kenya.

Brother Matthew Scofield

PRISONER

Chains bind me fast

To this dungeon wall.

The reason I'm here?

Something about a fall.

I used to think

I could never die.

But then I was hit

And discovered the lie.

It's so cold in here

And damp as well.
Mold forms on my feet
And what is that smell?
The key to my chains
Is only inches away.
Am I willing to reach it
To make them like clay?
The gift is free
It's mine for the asking.
Can I put away my pride
And all that it's masking.
If I can
I will truly be free.
And I will know what it's like
For You to know me.

Brother William Scofield

NOTES FROM NAVAJOLAND

EROSION

Much of Navajoland and of the Southwestern part of this country is characterized by erosion. It is not uncommon to see where soil has eroded to a depth of six feet after one heavy rain causing arroyos which cannot be crossed with a vehicle. From any point in the Torreon area, one can see strange shapes that have been made from erosion: Lions, a camel, a seal, a piece of pie, and a hamburger to name a few. These shapes are unusual and interesting and are often photographed. Erosion does have a value because when the rock erodes, it eventually is washed into the valleys and becomes soil.

Erosion of a different sort is causing manifold problems. Among the Navajo people we are witnessing an erosion of health. Historically, the Navajos' have been a hearty people. Behind many wind and sun weathered faces were strong bones and a body capable of

withstanding many hardships of life and extending life in many cases to old age. We remember Jose Toledo, Sr., who in his nineties and blind would often be seen at the wood pile chopping wood which he could not see. Or Lewis Toledo, also blind, as an old man digging post holes to build a corral. Today, however, we are witnessing many of the Navajos being afflicted with diabetes, kidney, and heart disease. Most of these people will not live to an old age due to the erosion of their health.

The lost value of a work ethic is taking its toll on the Navajos, also. The flocks of sheep are becoming smaller in number. Fewer boys and girls experience the benefit of being shepherds like their parents and grandparents. As the American culture continues to make inroads into the far reaches of the reservation, slowly but surely, it brings an easier lifestyle.

A lesson for us all is that even as a rock can be eroded if given enough time, so can health, values, standards and even one's walk with God if proper maintenance is not applied in sufficient time. Many lives have been lost because of improper concern and care was not given while there yet was hope. Likewise, many who once walked with God have failed in that good calling and who like the angels have lost "their first estate."

May we all look to the foundations of our lives. Look for the crumbling signs of indifference and the termites of human weakness and make the necessary repairs while there is hope.

Brother David Skiles

I CHANGE NOT

Continued from May 1998 Bible Monitor

Lest we should still be fearful and afraid as we see the onslaught of Satan against the people of God, we will speak expressly of Emmanuel, which being interpreted is GOD with US. Matt. 1:23.

The Son of God, whom Satan sought to slay as a child, was protected in Egypt. Again and again, Satan sought to destroy Him, but was unable, for Jesus was able to overcome, because he was both GOD and MAN.

Phil 2:6-11, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not rob-

bery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

One day after a very tiring day of teaching and healing He took ship with His disciples, and laid down, as a man to sleep. But when a great storm arose so that they were in jeopardy, they awakened Him and say unto Him, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" But as God He rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea be still. Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? Read about it in Matt. 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25.

"And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" Mark 4:41.

When Jesus was baptized and anointed of the Spirit of God, they heard the voice of God saying "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:17 and Mark 1:11.

Immediately he was driven by the Spirit, into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Matt. 4:1 and Mark 1:12-13. He was able to overcome all the temptations of the devil, by the use of the scriptures.

When He had preached at Nazareth they sought to kill him. "But he passing through the midst of them went his way." Luke 4:16-30.

The Jews often sought to kill Him. John 5:18, 7:30, 8:59, 10:39, 11:53. All of these attempts failed because His hour had not come. So all of Satan's wily attempts upon His life failed.

But His hour finally came. He went to meet it and gave His life for you and me. John 12:27, John 18, 19. He walked with and among men that He might show us the Father. John 14:1-11.

Peter sought to defend Him with a sword, Matt. 26:51, but though

He could have called twelve legions of angels He chose to die as man that He might come forth as God.

Satan may have thought he had gained the victory but the purpose of God was fulfilled in that he tasted death for every man. In that He arose from the grave, He gave glorious life to all who would believe on His name. So the victory was God's. II Cor. 13:4, "For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you."

So let us have faith in the one who is King of kings and Lord of lords, that we may be among the called and chosen and faithful. Rev. 17:14.

Please read Rev. 19:1-9, especially these words beginning with verse 6. "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

Lead on, O King Eternal, The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home:
Thro' days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And Holiness shall whisper The sweet Amen of peace;
For not with swords loud clashing, Nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy, The heav'nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King Eternal: We follow, not our fears,
For gladness breaks like morning Where'er Thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted o'er us; We journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest; Lead on, O God of might."

God bless you and give you the peace that passeth understanding.

Brother William Carpenter

LET US GET RID OF THE ROOTS

Sometimes we do not see ourselves as the Lord sees us, and possibly, as others see us. Sometimes we keep those ill wild sinful roots because we like them. They are the means of getting what the old sinful man or woman wants. Sometimes we just do not realize what our old roots are, that stand out to others. Have we failed to put all our sin on the altar of sacrifice.

Selfishness is one of the big sins when we want to keep, and obtain more and more for self. Not only do we hoard money and wealth, but we also hold back time and encouragement that should be given to others, which perhaps means more to them than dollar bills. Remember that James says, the whole duty of man is to visit the widows and orphans in their affliction, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world. When we meet the people who do this I believe we are meeting conscientious, born-again, Christians. They are giving to the persons and not expecting anything in return. The Lord repays them in blessings many times over.

How do we pray? As the Pharisee, who went to the Temple thankful that he was not as other men were, or as the sinner beside him, who prayed, "Lord be merciful to me a sinner"? He felt that he was the clay and the Lord was the potter. As King David we should pray "O Lord search me and try me", realizing that we may not see our own faults. We want to walk as pure and clean as possible before our fellow men and the Lord. This is the way the great men of God prayed.

We need great men of God these days. We will need them more and more as the days of man's and God's wrath approaches. We can never get right with God and man too soon. It seems hard for people to get away from bad company. The more they are fostered the harder it is to discard bad company. The more we are with them, the more they influence us.

The devil does not have much time left, so he is exerting every

deceivable act he possibly can to sidetrack all the born-again believers possible. We need more prayer warriors begging God's help to guide us away from sin, sinful people and sinful practices that we see in ourselves or do not see. The Lord will reward us in his own way and time. We can trust him, his promises are sure, but Satan is a liar and deceiver. Let us be careful who we believe and follow, the great I Am or the monster deceiver.

The Apostle Paul admonished the Corinthians in I Cor. 11:1 to be followers of him as he was also of Christ. We are not to follow people any farther than they follow Christ. When we have friends who want us to do something rather than be in the house of God we had better realize it would be much better to forsake the dissenting factor than to forsake the house of God. The devil is constantly with us and at work trying to mislead every child of God so that he or she grows cold in God's service. Such so-called friends will many times be responsible when these people find that Heaven's gate is closed, and the books are closed, and eternal judgment has been pronounced, "I never knew you."

"Today is the day of salvation, harden not your hearts." God has given us His best. He expects our best of us. So do not be as the foolish virgins until the door of opportunity has been closed and the door is shut. This life is only a wee bit of time, ETERNITY is forever. God loves you, the born-again loves you, why sell out for a mess of pottage that you enjoy today, but lasts only today, and tomorrow be as hungry as you were today, or maybe more so.

Prepare today to meet thy God, tomorrow may be too late. Look up, climb up and not slide down. A dead fish can float down stream, but it takes a live fish to swim upstream—so is the Christian walk in our lives. It takes constant effort or we will find ourselves floating with the devil-crowd where the road is wide and paved and we have lots of company to keep us entertained, but ends in the eternal lake of fire.

The Lord does not force us to obey Him. He lets us choose our way of life and destination. Which will it be? God's best blessing or a furnace of fire and brimstone? There is a vast difference between the two. Likewise there should be a vast difference in our lives today. GOD help us. We need to be awakened out of our spiritual

sleep.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder

WITH A PURE HEART, FERVENTLY

I Peter 1:22-23, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

"See that ye love one another with a pure heart, fervently." This is a command from the Lord through the Apostle Peter to all those in Christ Jesus. We have already purified ourselves through the Holy Spirit by obeying the truth. Now we must love one another. Some say we cannot purify ourselves. The scripture tells us in I John 3:3, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he (the Lord Jesus Christ) is pure." We purify ourselves through the Spirit, He that teaches us all things. To purify ourselves is evidence that we have a desire to please God and to sit at His feet. This purification is a continual process, taking our whole life. Paul says in Philippians 3:12, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." I seek to take possession of Christ, even as Christ has already taken possession of me. So Peter says, since we have already established a relationship with Christ through the Spirit, we should then love one another as Christ loved us.

The relationship we have with Christ allows us to love the brethren without pretense: to be open and honest in our dealings, without pretending. There should be no motive in our love except to give honor and glory unto God. We should show no more love to the Elder because of his position than to anyone else. A pure heart can only come from God. To love fervently means to do so with much heat, or warmth.

I Peter 1:23 tells us that our "religion" should come from above, not from below. Many followed Jesus, but not so many followed Him at the end. Only John was with Him at the cross. Can our

Christianity be bought from us for an earthly price? Can our relationship with Jesus be corrupted? Or is it an incorruptible life that we live before God and the world?

Our duty is to love one another with a pure heart fervently. How do we measure up?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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WOLVES IN THE SHEEPFOLD

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” Matthew 7:15.

This warning from our Lord directly follows His instructions concerning the way to eternal life. “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

The fact that these false prophets who are inwardly ravening wolves “come to you” should cause us to sit up and take notice. These individuals are not trying to win converts from those outside Christ’s sheepfold but are attempting to bring confusion to the minds of those who are Christ’s sheep. We are convinced that many of these individuals are not even aware that they are false prophets. They sincerely believe that what they are teaching is to be found within the pages of God’s Holy Word. They uphold the Bible as the infallible Word of God. Are these individuals saved? We leave that judgment in the hands of God.

However, there are individuals who obviously are not within the household of true faith. These false prophets who come in sheep’s clothing deny that the Bible is the infallible word of God. They deny the truths concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, miracles and many other Bible teachings.

Strangely enough, there are both those who uphold the Bible as the infallible Word of God and those who deny this who are promoting four questions that are bringing great confusion within the

sheepfold. At first glance these questions appear to be very legitimate. We can easily understand why so many have fallen victim to their appeal.

The first of these questions is, "Is it vital to salvation?" The thrust of this question is if something is not vital to salvation then it should not be a major concern to those within the sheepfold. The problem is that most of those who are asking this question are also teaching that what you do has nothing at all to do with your salvation. They would restrict the "narrow way" to the fact that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven. This is a vital truth which is denied by those in the second category we discussed. But, according to the rest of this chapter and many other portions of the Word of God recognizing Jesus Christ as The Way, the Truth and The Life is not sufficient. We must also obey His instructions.

The second question that is asked is, "Does it cause dissension?". The implication of this question being that anything that causes a disturbance within the sheepfold must be wrong. We are persuaded that there is far too much nit picking going on within the sheepfold. There have been splits and splinters over issues that, we are persuaded, could have been resolved. There are many issues that are not directly dealt with in Holy Scripture that become a battlefield within the ranks of believers. But to say that nothing should be discussed and even defended that will cause dissension is to deny the authority of the Word of God.

A third question put forth is, "Is it a form of legalism?". The emphasis of this question is that anything not directly found in Holy Scripture that is made church practice is legalism. The most dangerous result of this question is that it is popular today to re-interpret many portions of Holy Scripture to fit modern theology.

The final question on our list (I am sure others could be added) that false prophets are asking is, "Did Jesus teach it?". The inference of this question is that nothing in Holy Scripture is really valid unless it came directly from the mouth of Jesus Christ. They would make Holy Scripture be in contrast and opposition rather than in Holy Harmony. To be fair, this question is almost always asked by those who deny that the Bible is the infallible Word of God.

It can not be denied that these questions have had an impact

on those within our own sheepfold. There is much talk about tearing down the fences so the sheep can freely mingle. The only problem with that philosophy is that when the fences are down there is nothing left to protect the sheep from the wolves!

It is not popular to point out that Jesus Christ said concerning eternal life and Truth "few there be that find it." We believe it would be cultic to describe any organization as the One True Church. But we also believe it is dangerous to set aside beliefs and practices because they are no longer popular. Let us strive for the strait and narrow way and beware of the wolves.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
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WHO IS YOUR MASTER?

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matthew 6:24.

As we look around us in the world today, people are busy laying up worldly treasures. Greed is on every hand. People are so busy becoming rich that they have time for nothing else. They reject God. They ignore their neighbors. There is no time for church, for Bible study, or prayer. Their thoughts are centered on worldly gain and laying in store for retirement. Are we, God's people, caught up in this way of life? The Bible says, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2.

We must be careful that our earthly possessions do not come before God. If we covet earthly riches, we cannot serve God faithfully. Jesus tells us, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6:21.

If we choose to serve the riches of this world, we cannot lay up treasures in Heaven. We will not have time to study the Word. We will not have time to spend in prayer. We will not have time to spread the Gospel through witnessing. Nor will we have time to go to church or have fellowship with God's people.

We need to focus our attention on laying up treasures in Heaven. We must be diligent in our service to God. Tell others about Jesus. Be a good example and a light to the unsaved. Study God's Word daily. Spend time in prayer. Attend church faithfully. Lay up treasures in Heaven, where they will last for eternity.

Who is your master: God or mammon?

Brother Robert Lichtenberger

MEETING NOTICES

July 12-19 - Revival Meeting, Hart, Michigan

July 24-August 2 - Revival Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

August 9-16 - Revival Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

August 9-16 - Revival Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

August 15-23 - Revival Meeting, Swallow Falls, Maryland

August 30-September 6 - Revival Meeting, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

September 6-13 - Revival Meeting, Grandview, Missouri

September 13 - Harvest Meeting, Englewood, Ohio

September 18-27 - Revival Meeting, West Fulton, Ohio

September 20-27 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania

September 20-27 - Revival Meeting, Quinter, Kansas

September 20-27 - Revival Meeting, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

September 27-October 4 - Revival Meeting, Walnut Grove, Maryland

September 27 - Harvest Meeting West, Fulton, Ohio

LOVEFEAST NOTICES

July 18 - Hart, Michigan

August 15 - Plevna, Indiana

August 15 - Dallas Center, Iowa

August 22 - Swallow Falls, Maryland

September 12 - Grandview, Missouri

September 26 - Quinter, Kansas

NEWS ITEMS

HART, MICHIGAN

The Lord willing the Hart Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings July 12 through 19, with Lovefeast on July 18. Bro. James Meyers of Dallas Center, Iowa will be our evangelist. There will be services on Saturday at 10:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M. and the Lovefeast at 6:30 P.M. A loving invitation is extended to all to come to these meetings. If you can not come then please pray for these meetings.

Please remember Bro. Jeremiah and Sis. Debra Johnson in prayer as they have recently gone from Hart to Kenya to serve as missionaries.

Sis. Anna Powell, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls, Maryland Congregation is planning a fall revival, August 15 through 23 with Bro. Ray Stuber of Felton, Pennsylvania as evangelist. Services each evening at 7:30, Sunday mornings Sunday School at 10:00 A.M., preaching at 11:00 A.M. Lovefeast, Saturday, August 22, 7:30 P.M., Sunday August 23 a carry-in-dinner will be served on the grounds. Everyone is welcome and invited. Come and enjoy these services with us.

We had good services at our March revival. Bro. Frank E. Shaffer and wife were with us. He did not shun to preach the Gospel. Our worst snow storm of the winter happened during that week, so the crowds were small, but it was spiritually strengthening to those who did face the storm.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings this summer. They will start Sunday, August 30 through September 6. Bro. Len Wertz, from Quinter, Kansas, will be our Evangelist. Pray for those who need to accept the Lord in these last days. Come, worship, pray, sing, and enjoy the blessings with us.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center, Iowa Congregation will hold a revival meeting starting Sunday, August 9 through August 16. Bro. Phil Gish will bring the Word. There will be Lovefeast services Saturday, August 15. Come and worship with us and pray for true revival.

Sister Mary Sue Moss, Cor.

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our thanks to all of you who sent greeting cards, and did pages for our 50th anniversary scrapbook. We appreciated so much your helping to make our special day more special.

Brother Paul and Sister Dorothy Nell

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST

August 2 - Enthusiasm - Ps. 96:2, Ecc. 9:10, II Cor. 9:1-2, I Cor. 15:58

1. What should we do with all our might?
2. How would you rate your personal zeal in service to the Lord?

August 9 - I Wholly Followed The Lord-Joshua 14:1-9 (Homestudy Jos. 13).

1. How can we live a life of which it can be said "I wholly followed the Lord my God."?
2. For what length of time is a promise valid?

August 16 - Give Me This Mountain - Joshua 14:10-15, 15:13-20.

1. What did Caleb do during the forty-five years following the promise which is given as the reason for him receiving the fulfillment of the promised inheritance?
2. In addition to receiving the land, what other promise did God fulfill to Caleb?

August 23 - If Thou Be A Great People-Joshua 17:1-18 (Homestudy Jos. 16)

1. Why could the Canaanites not be driven out of the land

by the children of Manassah?

2. Why did Joshua say the house of Joseph would be able to drive out the Canaanites?

August 30 - Self-Control - Gen. 39:7-12, Matt. 27:11-14, Titus 1:7-11.

1. What kept Joseph from yielding to the temptation to sin?
2. Why did Jesus not answer the accusations of the witnesses, nor defend Himself before Pilate?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1998

August 2 - Clean Living - Ps. 119:1-6, I John 2:14-17.

1. How can we become and stay undefiled?
2. How do we determine whether something is of the world or of the Father?

August 9 - Following the Crowd - Ex. 23:1-2, Deut 12:28-32, II Kings 17:15, Matt. 23:1-12.

1. Why is the multitude usually doing evil?
2. What has God promised for us if we do that which is good and right in the sight of God?

August 16 - Awake Or Asleep - Mark 13:34-37, 14:32-40, Eph. 5:14-17.

1. How is it possible to think we are awake and yet actually be asleep?
2. What does it mean to watch and pray?

August 23 - Straight Paths - Deut. 5:32-33, Josh. 1:8-9, Prov. 4:26-27, Heb. 12:13-14.

1. What may be on the right hand and on the left hand that would distract us from the straight path?
2. How do you "make straight paths for your feet"?

August 30 - Witnessing - Isa. 62:6, Mark 5:18-20, II Tim. 1:8-13, I Pet. 3:10-16.

1. Why was Paul not ashamed to witness for the Lord?
2. How can we "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh"?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHO'LL BE THE NEXT?

Who'll be the next to follow Jesus?

Who'll be the next his cross to bear?

Some one is ready, some one is waiting;

Who'll be the next a crown to wear?

Who'll be the next to follow Jesus—

Follow his weary, bleeding feet?

Who'll be the next to lay ev'ry burden

Down at the Father's mercy seat?

Who'll be the next to follow Jesus?

Who'll be the next to praise his name?

Who'll swell the chorus of free redemption—

Sing hallelujah! Praise the Lamb?

Who'll be the next to follow Jesus,

Down thro' the Jordan's rolling tide?

Who'll be the next to join with the ransomed,

Singing upon the other side?

-Annie S. Hawks

CHOOSING SECOND BEST

When Sears, Roebuck and Company issued catalogs, those writing descriptions of the items, would classify the various items as good, better or best. The good items were basic items with few frills and options. The better items were better than the good but not as good as the best products. The best products had the latest technology, the most available options and often were built to last longer. The customer had to make a decision concerning which product he would buy. Would it be the good, the better or the best?

The same decision needs to be made when buying an item in a store. Sometimes we decide to buy the style that is rated as second best. The second best may be a very serviceable item. It would be better than the basic item, but lacking some of the features of the best item. It would probably meet the actual needs of the purchaser in most situations. Sometimes it makes sense to purchase the more expensive item, if its features are needed and it will give better service over a longer period of time. Otherwise it might be wise to buy the second best item.

The idea of purchasing the second best item shows a desire to have something that is useful, well-constructed, longer lasting than the basic product, yet shows a deference to other forces. It may be a financial decision. The best just costs too much. The initial purchase price may be too high at that time. To have the best may elicit feelings of pride that might be contrary to good relations with oth-

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ers. While not as long lasting, or as fancy, or having all the latest technology, the second best may be very serviceable. Sometimes the only difference might be decorative, rather than substantive.

There are other times when only the best will do. To buy a product of lesser quality would be to waste time and money on an inferior product. The best truly is the best. The best should be our choice in that situation.

Many when choosing their Spiritual foundation choose the second best. Although the best is available to them at no extra price, they choose to follow the course put before them by Satan. Satan has ever set before men that which is inferior and defective. He might put a lot of decorative and deceptive devices on his product, but that does not improve its Spiritual quality. What He has to offer will be made to look attractive, but it will lead to a disappointing end.

Many do choose the second best. They do not adequately look into the deceptive advertising that Satan employs. He promises them the best of times, but leads them into an eternity of suffering and separation. He promises them the easiest of lives and the most enjoyable of all pleasures, but in the end he brings them into the bondage of sin. When dealing with eternal, Spiritual lives, the second best is not good enough. What would look so pleasant and even would appear to be Spiritual will turn out to be a failure. A lost soul is too high a price to pay for the second best.

God has offered the best. He gave His own Son to overcome the lies and deceits of Satan. He emptied the treasury of Heaven to provide the best and only solution to the sin problem. There is no other solution to man's greatest need. The best part of this deal is that it is available without price. It can not be bought or earned. It can not be demanded, it can only be accepted. The virgin-born, crucified, risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, has provided the best, yet many still choose the second best.

Many who choose the best often handle it in a second best manner. Many Christians choose a second best lifestyle. They understand the benefits offered to them through Jesus Christ, but they are not willing to secure the very best in their Spiritual lives. They ignore or limit their exposure to His Word. They find other activities to be involved in, when they could be involved in fellow-

ship, study, or service. They dedicate their efforts, finances, and planning to secular affairs rather than use their efforts in furthering the Kingdom of God. They are not available for the work of the church, only its pleasures. They are not concerned about their example in front of others. They do not want to give their best although the best has been provided for them.

Choosing the second best may be alright when purchasing an item in the store. It may make good sense. When the second best is chosen in the Spiritual life, it never makes good sense. The best has been provided without cost or price. Living the Christian life in a second best manner does not make good sense.

Which have you chosen? The good, the Better or the BEST?

M.C.Cook

1998 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

SATURDAY P.M.

Bro. Phil Gish opened. II Chron. 2, James 4:6, I Peter 5:6.

Bro. Kevin Funk. Numbers 11:1-6. Contentment. The children of Israel were never satisfied. God tried to satisfy them. God provided their every need. Are we content? Be content in the Lord. Discontentment in our lives makes us so we are just lukewarm. Might we always have contentment in the Lord. God is always sufficient and unfailing. Psalms 7:8. Contentment is a choice we make. We never find contentment in lukewarmness. I Cor. 10:13. God helps us by leading us from temptation. David had true contentment in the Lord. When we are content in the Lord we can hear Him speak to us.

Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson. I Cor. 12:27-31. Keeping the Faith. Are you keeping the faith? We must keep ourselves in the love of God. He will keep us from falling if we put our trust in Him. Keep ourselves in the love of God. We must have charity in our life. What is charity? Doing something for someone. Helping others. Are we keeping the faith in the Lord? Do we have charity in our heart. Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Bro. Jeremiah Johnson closed. If you are content God is with

you. If you are discontent the Devil will deceive you. Are you keeping that faith in the Lord. Are you willing to humble yourself and pray. The power of prayer will help us.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Bro. Dale Jamison opened. Exodus 20:11-12. Honor one another. Let's be careful that we live true to God, so we can get the honor we should.

Bro. Ray Stuber. Josh. 8:18-26. Stretching out the Spear. Carry out obedience to the Lord. Satan tries to bring confusion in the Church. There needs to be unity in the Church or we will be defeated by Satan. Build each other up in the Holy Faith. Whom are we trusting? Its the Heavenly Father. The greatest sin is the lack of prayer.

Satan imitates God. He has his false doctrine. Satan tries to devour us. He tries to stop our prayers. He tries to tempt us and lead us astray. Satan will bring disbelief to us. Put on the whole armour of God. Satan tries to get into our hearts. We must have the helmet of salvation. Sound doctrine will help us to follow Christ. Follow God's Holy Word so we will not blaspheme against Him.

We need strong homes of the faith in God to help the Church. Love thy God with all thy heart. This is the foundation of the home. Teach our children diligently about our Heavenly Father. The enemy of our soul, the Devil, tries to deceive us.

Bro. Henry Walker closed. Put on the whole armour of God. Do not allow sin in your soul. There is victory for us if we will follow Christ.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Bro. William Carpenter. Psalm 31. Do not be afraid. Stand firm for the Lord.

SUNDAY A.M.

Bro. Edward Johnson opened. II Chron. 7. What will it take to heal this land of ours? More prayer is what we need. If we believe in God we can have everlasting life.

Bro. Ray Reed. Pride. Prov. 16:18. Jesus came to give us salvation. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. We need Jesus to help us gain Eternal Life. God hates a

proud look. Prov. 8:14. Pride causes contention. Everything we have comes from God. Be willing to share. A proud heart is sin. We cannot be proud and be true to God. Give God the glory and not ourselves. There is a reward for us to serve God. We must bare one another's burdens. We must be concerned about others. Where is our heart of compassion? Lets reach out to the lost. Are we surrendering our lives to the will of the Lord. Look to God to direct us day by day. Be kind and affectionate one to the other. Be of the same mind one to the other. Pride goes before destruction.

SUNDAY EVENING

Bro. David Skiles opened. Gen. 46:16. Be careful. Avoid a Spiritual fallout. There is that possibility we could fall out. That means each of you. Spiritual fallout can be handed down through our family.

Bro. Mark Cordrey. Sermon for the young people. Phil. 1:1-6. With Jesus all things are possible. John 17. We can be faithful to the Lord. Why did Jesus pray out loud? He knew his future. He knew that he was going to leave this world. The Bible is written for you and it's written for me. Be faithful to the Lord. Desire the Lord to work with you. Examine your life for a minute. Being faithful is accomplished by knowing Christ Jesus. Live your life true to the Lord. Be confident with in God's Grace. God can help us with our problems. Take Him at His word. What are the issues in your life? We have access to ask the Lord for help if we have a problem to solve. Be confident in the Lord. If our heart is right our outside life will be right. Be inspired, be joyful in the Lord. With Jesus your future starts today.

Bro. James Meyers closed. What will you do today?

To be Continued
Sister Alice Heisey

GOD'S GIFTS

Spring has always been my favorite season, with flowers bursting into bloom and everything looking very much alive again.

Just after a refreshing shower, I strolled out through to the raspberries and pulled some weeds. How nice they pulled after the rain.

Everything seemed to be singing as everywhere I looked there was green grass, trees and flowers.

My two little children came bounding across the grass to me and they were another reminder of God's gifts to me. How energetic, healthy and happy they appeared to be!

As I was planting some new raspberry plants and saw those little buds, I thought, "What a miracle that a nice, big, black, juicy raspberry will come out of that."

Looking down across the yard, the rows of blooming blueberry bushes were all white with blossoms. What a picture.

Next we strolled to our fruit trees and observed the tiny little pears, apricots and apples. We have the hope of enjoying those juicy, tasty fruits in harvest time.

The garden is becoming nice and green with the early vegetables coming through the ground. The asparagus is shooting up through the earth and the hull pea rows are growing every day with the sunny and rainy days. Right next to them is the strawberry patch bursting with white blossoms and little tiny strawberries. What is better than strawberry shortcake on a hot summer day?

As the children and I head to the barn we smell a wonderful aroma in the breeze and we pick some of those gorgeous clusters of lilacs for a bouquet on the table. How we like to enjoy the flowers that are in season!

As we enter the barn our bottle lamb rubs her fuzzy black nose against us. We know she would like her bottle. Then she will be happy and content.

At our feet is a cluster of five little soft kittens, tumbling and playing. My children pick them up and give them hugs and try to think of names to suit each one. After much playing, giggling and excitement, we continue our walk past the rock garden and view the crimson tulips bobbing their heads in the breeze. Adjacent to them is the yellow drooping basket of gold flowers and then lots of beautiful white and purple violets.

The surroundings are peaceful and I feel blessed to live in America. I'm so thankful for these children and for having a faithful husband who so lovingly provides for us.

But most of all, I feel blessed for my heritage and to serve an awesome God, who in His infinite wisdom gives His gifts to us unsparingly.

May we rejoice and thank God for His gifts today.

Praising Him,
Sister Lucy Siegrist

THE TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS

Matthew 4:1-25

After the high point of the baptism of Jesus with the manifestation of God the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus was "led of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." Why was this necessary? It was necessary so that Jesus would be the perfect high priest. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). We can never accuse God of not knowing what we are going through. Jesus understands!

In this account, Jesus underwent three temptations by the devil. Notice that He went into the temptations as a very hungry man! He had fasted for forty days before meeting up with the devil. That is a good example for us!

The first temptation as given in Matthew's account was to do something about His hunger. The devil wanted Jesus to turn some stones into bread. Jesus answered him by using Old Testament Scripture. The reference about not living by bread alone came from Deuteronomy 8:3. No matter what our needs or our circumstances, we are to look to God to supply, and not to Satan.

The second temptation was that Jesus would cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, and put the angels to work. Notice that the devil can use Scripture. He was quoting from Psalms 91:11-12 here. But the devil used the Scripture out of context, and in a wrong application! In any case, it is always wrong to obey the devil, even if he is quoting Scripture! Jesus answered Satan with Deuteronomy 6:16, and refused to tempt God. While it sometimes seems that it would be a good witness to put on an amazing demonstration of God's power by some very visible exhibition, this is not

the way God generally works.

In the third temptation, we catch a glimpse of the dominion or rule of Satan. Satan is "the prince of the power of the air" of this world (see Ephesians 2:2). He claimed to have the power to give all the kingdoms of the world to Jesus if only Jesus would have worshipped him. Some wonder if Satan even has that kind of power. Doesn't everything belong to Jesus, after all? But Satan won dominion of the earth at the time of the fall of Adam and Eve. Jesus did not challenge Satan's claim on the kingdoms of the world, but rather, refused to obey Satan, and used Deuteronomy 6:13 as His answer.

After the temptations, the devil left Jesus. The angels came and ministered to Him. This is a lesson to us about endurance.

Summary Thought. . . "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

Brother Bob Lehigh

"DO YOU FEEL VALUABLE TO GOD?"

We all love a bargain—getting something for nothing thrills us. We love flea markets and rummage sales and wish we had more time for them. Some pieces of furniture you bring home need to be refinished, but others are put into use without the benefit of any beautifying.

"Do you feel valuable to God?" I am sure if this question were asked in your Sunday School class there would be silence after the question was read aloud. We would glance at one another to see who would have an answer. Who would be bold enough to claim they feel valuable to God? Some may respond, "Well, I do not know why, because I mess up so much, but since He died for me, I know He values me for some reason." "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) God paid a great price because He values us, but we are wrong to assume the reason for His love has anything to do with who we are, or what we do.

Thinking about this, my mind turned to how we all like to hunt

for bargains at yard sales. This illustration took shape: The owner of a home closes the door, locking it behind him. The house sits in silence until the dining table speaks. "Well, he's gone again. I wish he were around a little more. I know he likes us all because he brought us all into his home, but some of us are more valuable than others. For instance, I am made of solid mahogany, that's not a veneer on my top, and not just any mahogany either, my kind was logged out of existence a hundred years ago. I'm a carefully preserved antique, this is my original finish too; I've never been dipped in any of that stripping stuff. Yes, I am very valuable to our owner."

The counter in the kitchen responded, "Well, I'm not made of fancy wood, but I know he values me, too. After all, I serve him well. He can't live without eating and I provide the surfaces he needs to prepare food every day. He uses me at least twice a day, and some days he's home at lunch, too. So, I know he needs me and values me every bit as much as he does you."

From the living room the small voice of an end table spoke. "I can't look at myself and see any reason for him to value me. I'm made of cheap poplar, probably not even furniture grade. I was never a piece of fine furniture. I don't serve any great purpose, that I can tell either. He puts his newspaper on me when he finishes reading it. I'm kind of a pausing place for things he later picks up and throws away. What makes me know he values me is seeing what he has done for me.

"I had been thrown away. My finish was scratched and two legs were loose. One fell off when he picked me up, but he took me anyway. He brought me here, he cleaned me up, stripped off the old finish and sanded me until I was smooth. He glued my legs back on tight. I sat in clamps for hours, and then he gave me this new coat of varnish. He put me where he wanted me, and though my service is not as grand as the kitchen counter's, he did have use for me. One of my legs is warped and that makes me teeter a little, but he props it up with a little piece of wood. I know I'm valuable to him because he acts like I am. It doesn't seem to have anything to do with me at all."

Does the value of the dining table have anything to do with its wood, or the kitchen counter with its service? Not really. Their

value is realized only in the presence of the owner. If he were to never return, his home and all that's in it would mildew, rot and fall in on itself.

It's the loving care of God, His presence in our lives that reveals to us our value to Him. This is how I know God values me, and my response to His work in my life must be to raise my voice and praise His goodness and mercy. (Ephesians 2:10).

Remember—God loves you so much that He cannot take His eyes from you!

CAREing and SHAREing,
Brother Emmert Shelly

THIS IS AFRICA!

Rebekah Kenaston

I'm thinking of a far-off place

Across the ocean's waves

Where dark-skinned natives cry and sigh,

They've never heard that Jesus saves,

This is Africa!

I'm thinking of a starving land

Where little children cry

Where there's no food to ease their pain

Where loved ones starve and fin'ly die,

This is Africa!

I'm thinking of a heathen place

Where gods are wood and stone

Where dear souls slave their lives away

Yet for their sins they can't atone,

This is Africa!

I'm looking at a hurting face

Whose eyes are filled with tears

With outstretched hands and pleading look
With unknown tongue she shares her fears,
This is Africa!

I'm looking at an unloved child
Who clasps my hand with joy
Whose grateful eyes are thanks enough
For any time I did employ,
This is Africa!

I'm looking at a hopeless face
Whose dear loved one has died
Who has no peace, no future joy
No comforter who will abide,
This is Africa!

I'm walking through a mud village
The people are so poor
There's filth, disease, and nakedness
Of dreaded death there's more and more,
This is Africa!

I'm walking by the city church
The choir gently sings
No gospel's preached; the people leave
Without the joy salvation brings,
This is Africa!

I'm walking down a jungle path
To villages unknown
To reap a harvest; golden grain
From seed which God alone has sown,
This is Africa!

We're praying for God's pow'r and grace
To everywhere abound
That each and every man may hear
Salvation's blessed, joyful sound,
In Africa!

We're giving of ourselves and time
For Christ has done the same
We want to spread His kingdom far,
We'll give our lives in Jesus name...
For Africa!

We're going to a heavenly land
Where no-one ever dies
Oh, let us take these souls along
The poor, the bound, the lost who cries...
The Africans!
Selected by Sister Mary Stump

VALUES

When a Brinks truck overturned in Miami recently, spilling several hundred thousand dollars into the street, families in the neighborhood acted like vultures. Parents and children alike scooped up every dollar they could get their hands on and ran for cover.

When the police asked them to return the money, which was not theirs and offered amnesty, one lone mother returned the money she had taken because she said she wanted to teach her children it was wrong to take what doesn't belong to you.

The message which all other parents sent to their children was: It's all right to steal if you can do it without getting caught. No one who took part in the looting needs to talk to his child about honesty.

Deut. 6:6-7, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house,

and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up."

Our children are the next link to affirm or abandon the value of God's principles. As parents we establish the boundaries for human behavior and must pass them down to the next generation.

God through His word has given us principles or fundamental truth that we might live by. These principles we could relate to good nutrition which we know contributes to good spiritual health. God has given each one of us the freedom to make choices in life and thus we place value on things, ideas and principles. We can relate these choices to taste; which sometimes influences us to partake of things that do not contribute to good spiritual health. Psalms 34:8, "O taste and see that the Lord is good:..." Psalms 119:103, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

The values a person holds will affect every thing he does. They determine what he will say "yes" to and what he will say "no" to. Whether an individual will lie, cheat, steal, or commit adultery is not determined by whether or not he thinks he will be caught so much as by the values which he holds.

Step by step, children are molded by parents into the kind of citizens, students, husbands, wives, mothers, and fathers they are going to be. When God is abandoned and Christian values are thrown out the window, they are replaced with a philosophy of individualism and self indulgence. The center of society breaks apart and boundaries come crashing down. Then human behavior ceases to be guided by what is right; but instead by what is pleasurable or expedient.

What kind of taste (value) are we giving our children. Will they be able to say that they have tasted and the Lord is good?

Brother Don Hostetler

ABASED, YET ABOUNDING

Philippians 4:12-13, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can

do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

In these trying times there is still peace with God. When we think about the saints and their gatherings on the Lord's Day, we are grateful for the very few that do attend. The Word of God continues to go forth, even though we would love it if there were more to listen. Often others tell us of the many that gather weekly "at their church." We indeed are envious of their numbers, but not of their message. The truth of God's Word is worth the sacrifice of numbers.

Many have written recently concerning the loss of members. Have we examined ourselves? Are we holding true to God's Holy Word? Are we holding fast to the things we promised God at the beginning of our walk with Him? There are many who are "progressive". This often means "progressing" away from the foundation of scripture, and "progressing" away from Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone. Many think we can add to our rolls by cutting corners on the commandments of the Lord.

We see "churches" so large that they have to have two services on a Sunday morning, yet what, if anything, do they believe? I have only been a Christian twenty-five years, but I have seen thriving groups of hundreds shrink to very few.

The Scriptures tell us to stand fast. We cannot be reeds shaken by the wind. Over the centuries there have been many who have taken their stand, and died for it, only to see their organization give up many Biblical practices.

I once belonged to a group that now accepts any mode of baptism, so long as it is "believer's baptism." There have been many steadfast Brethren who have upheld the old ways. They lived them. They taught and preached them. That group, like many, owes the old Brethren an apology for leaving the old paths.

Do not be afraid to hold fast, and do not be intimidated by those who would offer you their membership if you only "relax your stand" on a given issue. We need not bow the knee to Baal. Paul knew life on both sides of the fence and he knew that Christ was all in all. He went to Rome knowing full well what would happen to him.

How many of us have put ourselves in harm's way for the de-

fense of the Gospel? If we work at a job and tell others about Christ and are told to stop, what do we do? Most of us would probably stop. Yet the early brethren in the Book of Acts did not stop. The disciples and those in the Reformation times did not stop, and often they became martyrs for the cause of Christ.

Have we suffered for our faith? Many would say, "We should not have to suffer." Yet, most people, when cornered, will admit they have backed down instead of witnessing for their Lord. Can we truly say, as Paul did, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me?"

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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THINGS THAT WOULD NOT COMPLETELY BURN

"Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings." Jeremiah 4:4.

The Bible records several things that would not completely burn. Each of these is a spiritual lesson for us. We would like to look at some of these and attempt to see how they relate to the God we serve.

Our opening verse speaks of a God of Judgment. We will have more to say on this subject at the end of this study. There are other aspects of God that are seen through the illustration of fire.

Our first thought is found in Genesis 1:16. "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made stars also." Although neither the word "sun" nor "fire" can be found in this verse, we know that "the greater light" refers to the sun. The sun is a burning ball of fire. While scientists tell us that the sun will eventually burn out we believe this is mere speculation on their part without any solid proof. The sun will only cease to burn when God commands it to do so! This portion of Scripture introduces us to "Elohim." While all of the Bible names for God can be attributed to the three persons of the Holy Trinity (Three

yet One) the name Elohim is unique in that it is a uni-plural noun, both singular and plural, and suggests the Trinity of the Godhead. This is the name for the Creator God which humanistic evolution denies and theistic evolution refuses to give proper respect.

In Exodus 3:2 we find a familiar account to faithful Bible readers. "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him (Moses) in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed." This reminds us of "El Olam" the Bible name for The Everlasting God. When men try to explain God they come to an impossible (humanly speaking) conclusion. God is from everlasting to everlasting. He had no beginning and He will have no end. This sets Him above and beyond any human application. Yet mortal man would attempt to bring Him down to human understanding. The prestige and power we should be willing to acknowledge to His supremacy are lost along with the worship and reverence due to Him.

In Exodus 19:17-18 we find these words. "And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly." Directly following this event God gave Israel the Ten Commandments. This account reminds us of "El Elyon" - The Most High God. This name speaks of God's Heavenly Authority. For many individuals, "authority" has become an unacceptable word. While human government is far from perfect, the Bible tells us that, as Christians, we are to be subject to our leaders and the laws of the land that are not contrary to the explicit will of God. There is an attempt in some "Christian" circles to make God an accomplice to anarchism. Perhaps even worse, there is a complete disregard for the commandments of God in many legal decisions. Far above this terrible situation is the fact that a large portion of the Church no longer looks to the Word of God for its direction!

Daniel 3:25 tells us, "He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." This, of course, is the familiar account of the three Hebrew children who were cast into the fiery furnace because they refused to compromise. Not only

were they not completely burned but the Bible tells us that "the fire had no power, nor was a hair on their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them." Do you really believe this? Praise the Lord! WE DO. This account reminds us of the name "El Roi" - The God Who Sees or the God who watches over. We know that not all of the Saints were given the experience of the three Hebrew children and many were burned alive for their faith and unwillingness to compromise. We believe God was with them in the midst of the fire. We can also be assured that when fiery trials come our way "El Roi" will be with us and sustain us.

In Revelation 20:15 we have the saddest verse in the Bible. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." This is the final judgment of God. The sobering finale of our opening verse. The names of God corresponding with this event are Jehovah Nakeh - The Lord Who Smites and Jehovah El Gemul - The LORD God of Recompense. Some will have already suffered the judgment of God in Hell mentioned in the previous verse. The bodies will not be consumed but will suffer the torture of fire throughout all eternity. Many today deny this awful truth. They try to persuade people that a loving God would not torture individuals forever and forever. They fail to realize that God is perfect love and also perfect judgment.

We would like to close with one last name reserved for God, "Jehovah Tsidkenu" - The Lord Our Righteousness. My friend, if you have not accepted the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross, allowed His precious blood to cleanse you from all sin, as symbolized in triune immersion baptism, be obedient to the call of the Holy Spirit when He convicts you of sin.

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, let us remember who it is that we serve. Let His fire of cleansing be a daily part of our love as we make Him our righteousness. Let us soberly remind ourselves that our name can be blotted out of the book of life and we will then receive judgment in place of the safety and love of God.

Brother James M. Hite
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LET US SEARCH THE BIBLE

Let us search the Bible, the Living Word of God. It was dictated by Him and written by His servants. It is true. God is truth. It is a record of God and man ever since the Garden of Eden. Man has tried to destroy it, but it did not perish. It has been given for the direction of mankind to live by through the millenniums. Although many writers had a part in its writing over hundreds of years, it does not contradict itself. It teaches God's direction and harmonizes all the way through the years. It never gets old and out of date. Finally, it will be our judge at the last day, which is fast approaching.

I have been pressed to write this article for some time. It is very necessary to quit playing church, get on our knees and ask God for guidance with a pure mind and heart. We must have a desire to live closer to the throne of God without rebellion towards anything He shows us. As the parable of the sower shows the best crop came from the fertile soil, so it is with a receptive heart. Read the BIBLE, not books by other writers who try to explain away parts of the Bible. The Bible, not a particular church doctrine, will be our judge at the judgment day. Our Bible study should be accompanied by much daily prayer and seeking for God's will in our lives. We should also be singing hymns and witnessing to others. Eph. 5:19. Forget the television, the movies, the VCR, amusements of many varieties, and worldly, satanically-led money seekers, and proud friends. Hell is being enlarged for those people. Isa. 5:14.

There are various ways to study the Bible. Some read to say they read it through in a certain length of time. Others read a portion to prove a point without following up with the references to similar scriptures that more fully explain the subject. Many read in a hurry in order to do something else. Satan's helpers can find many interruptions when we try to apply our minds to Bible study: the telephone rings, the doorbell rings, you suddenly think of something you think must be done right now, or many other interferences. I really believe that this is caused by Satan's helpers to interfere with our Bible Study. Satan has the know-how to interfere and detract our thoughts.

As far as I have noticed every word in the original scripture was put there for a purpose. The italic words in the King James Version

were added by the translators who thought the meaning was more clear, and in some scriptures do seem more plain in our English language, but in some places it does seem more clear without the addition. We have to be careful not to add or subtract words or parts of God's holy writing. Read Rev. 22. We need to choose the old versions of the Bible. We need a Strong's Concordance, a good Bible dictionary and an old Webster's dictionary if possible. We should choose the quiet time of our day, every day, when our minds are clear with the least interference, and the Holy Spirit has an opportunity to speak to and direct through His Word. Read very slowly and thoughtfully, even read the same portion of scripture several times to grasp the meaning, run down the references through the Bible and get the whole meaning as much as possible. The Lord will give us light as we seek from time to time. That is what makes it the living Word of God. No other book is comparable to it. It is not important how far we read at a setting, but how much we absorb and are eager to apply to our lives that counts. Many people for many years have overlooked and just read over certain things mentioned in the Bible. For instance the traditions of men that have been handed down to us from our fathers generations back, we do not question. The Pharisees had many traditions that were not God's Word. So, men in our century are also keeping traditions of our fathers. Some traditions are Biblical and good. It is up to us to study the scriptures and discern what is Biblical and that which is wrong. Then we are to do God's will and keep His commandments. Old wives' fables is another testing for us. Here a Bible dictionary and a Topical Bible are helpful. Here are a number of references to look up in connection with this study. I Timothy 1:6, II Timothy 4:1-8, Titus 1:14-16, Matthew 15:7-9.

I have only mentioned a few things from the Scriptures to bring out my point that thorough study is revealing to our minds and hopefully to our lives. However the most needful of all is the fallow ground broken up of our hearts which is the most important. Then the Holy Spirit can and will speak to us and lead us along through this wicked world to an unimaginably beautiful home in Heaven. Hopefully we will have beautiful stars in our crowns resembling the one time lost souls that we have helped and led from a sinful life to a glorious redemption through Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. There

we will be able to sing the redemption song of the ages past and future eternally forever with the Bridegroom Redeemer and King.

The reader may not know this writer personally. My greatest ambition is to get people to think about their soul's destination, and to examine their desires of this life. I wish to turn them over to the Redeemer and get their souls washed white. If I have stars in my crown that will mean a lot to me, but much, much more will your presence in Heaven mean to me. Pray for me. The road has been rocky and steep many times in life, but the Lord has not forsaken me in illness and disappointments. He has always been close by, even though like David, Job and Jonah, I did not always realize during the time of trial, but like the poem "Footprints" these were the times when He was carrying me. Praise His Holy Name!

Sister Ruth M. Snyder

INCIDENT IN AN ELEVATOR

Kenneth C. Beaton

She got in the elevator
At the fifteenth floor
Of the Big hotel,
And the eight of us
Who were already in
Shuffled back a little
To make more room;
And she was pretty
And dressed in black
That seemed to add
To a touch of grief
That lay in her eyes;
And along with her
In a little blue coat
And a cute little face
Came a bit of a girl

Of perhaps four years;
And we shuffled again
And made more room,
Because little girls
Who are not very tall
And who can't reach up
Where there's lots of air
Must have more room
Than a grown up.
And so we stood
While the door clanged shut
And we started down,
And just as we did
There came an "Oh!"
In a frightened tone
From the little girl
As she hid her face
In her mother's skirt.
And mother reached down
And picked her up
And said to her,
"You mustn't be frightened—
Just open your eyes
And look up at the light."
And so she did;
And all the way down
She kept her eyes
On the bowl-like light.
And reaching the lobby
We all of us stood
With hats in hand

While mother and child
Went on their way,
And I don't know
But I imagine
That most of us
Remembered the words
"You mustn't be frightened—
Just open your eyes and
Look up at the light."

Selected by Sister Mildred Skiles

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

J. H. Moore

At the wedding in Cana of Galilee the best wine came last. This was because Jesus made it. But with Jesus it was the best all the while. He never preached a poor sermon. He made no mistake in any of the miracles he performed. One was just as well done as the other. When he made bread and fish for the five thousand the people had not a word of complaint about the food he furnished them. They never ate better bread and probably never tasted better fish. Then, too, his life was the highest type. His conversation was not only holy, but it was highly instructive. As a teacher there was no one his equal in all the world. And so it was with the religion he taught. It was the best then, and is the best yet.

OBITUARIES

HILDA E. SINES

Sis. Hilda E. Sines, 96, of Frostburg Village Nursing Home, formerly of Savage River Road, Swanton, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 19, 1997, at Sacred Heart Hospital, Cumberland, Maryland.

Born September 13, 1901, in Bond, Maryland, she was the daughter of the late Jonas and Edith Broadwater. She also was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil Sines, in 1989; one brother

and one sister. Sis. Sines was a homemaker and a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, Broadwater Chapel, Savage River Road.

Surviving are two sons, Donald Sines and wife Dorothy, Rawlings, Maryland and Ronald Sines and wife Lavona, Frostburg, Maryland; four daughters, Hazel Goff and husband Wayne, Keyser, West Virginia, Hollis Wilt and husband Ellis, Savage River Road, Maryland, Freda Labbe and husband Rene, Rawlings, Maryland and Alma Kroll and husband Eldred, Barton, Maryland; three sisters, Mamie Broadwater, Frostburg Village Nursing Home, Sadie Wilt, Mountain Lake Park and Lavada Bittinger, Rawlings, Maryland; one brother, Alva Broadwater, Savage River Road, Maryland; eighteen grandchildren and thirty-six great-grandchildren.

Friends were received at the Boal Funeral Home, Westernport, Maryland. Services were held at the funeral home on Monday, November 24, 1997, at 11:00 A.M. with Bro. Gene Kauffman and the Rev. Homer Beeman officiating.

Interment was in Rest Lawn Memorial Garden, LaVale, Maryland.

The family wants to thank all who kept us in their prayers, also for the food, cards, telephone calls and flowers we received. May God Bless each one.

The Sines Family

GEORGE T. LONGENECKER

George Thomas Longenecker, 56 of 77 Dry Hollow Road, Bernville, Pennsylvania died at 6:10 A.M. on Thursday, July 2, 1998, in his home of natural causes.

Born August 11, 1941, in Bernville, Pennsylvania, he was the son of Fern (Meade) Longenecker and the late George H. Longenecker.

Since 1987, he had been a minister in the Conservative Baptist Brethren Church, Frystown, Pennsylvania. He served as a Deacon from 1965 to 1987 and was head Elder for the past four years. He also served as President of the George H. Longenecker & Sons Construction of Bernville, Pennsylvania, last working June 3.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene (Klepinger) Longenecker,

two sons; Kevin E., husband of Mary (Hernley), Brent A., husband of Denise (Noecker), both of Bethel, Pennsylvania, two daughters; Karen L., wife of Jay Gingrich, Brenda S., wife of David Weidenhammer both of Bernville, Pennsylvania, and seven grandchildren.

Other survivors include three brothers; Jerre L. and Thomas G., both of Bernville, Pennsylvania and Dale E. of Bethel, Pennsylvania. Six sisters; Rhoda A., wife of David Kegerreis, Bethel, Pennsylvania, Rita Y., wife of Ray Garber, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Wanda A., wife of the late Robert Hearn, Donna M., wife of Galen Stauffer, Cinda S., wife of Raymond Burkholder, and Debra F. wife of Glen Burkholder, all of Bernville, Pennsylvania.

Services were held in the Conservative Baptist Brethren Church, Frystown, Pennsylvania on Monday, July 6, at 10:00 A.M. with interment at the adjoining Frystown Cemetery. Bro. Tim Alspaugh was in charge of the opening, followed by a sermon with Bro. Keith Snyder, taking the text from Psalm 121, one of George's favorite passages of scripture. Bro. Dan Alspaugh had the graveside services. Bro. Larry Andrews led the songs that George had chosen: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Asleep in Jesus," and "Safe in The Arms of Jesus."

He truly will be missed by his family, co-workers, brethren and sisters, and a host of friends. We want to send our sincerest thanks to all who have sent get well cards, sympathy cards, letters and words of encouragement and most of all the prayers that were offered in his and our behalf in the past ten months. We have appreciated one and all and may the Lord richly bless each and everyone as we continue to strive for that heavenly kingdom above.

This paper was found on George's desk after he had passed away - we would like to share it with you - maybe it will help to encourage others.

WHAT CANCER CANNOT DO

Cancer is so limited-

It cannot cripple love

It cannot shatter hope

It cannot corrode faith

It cannot destroy peace
It cannot kill friendship
It cannot suppress memories
It cannot silence courage
It cannot invade the soul
It cannot steal eternal life
It cannot conquer the spirit.

(George had added - Having cancer is not nice, but having cancer without God is terrible - God is greater than cancer.)

In Christian Love,
Darlene Longenecker,
Karen, Kevin, Brenda and Brent
and families

MARRIAGES

KEENEY-AUNGST

Kevin Lamar Keeney, son of Michael and Darlene (Noecker) Keeney and Sis. Dana Gail Aungst, daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Anita (Wolfe) Aungst were united in marriage, May 23, 1998 at Little Swatara Brethren Church. They are residing at 9156 Old 22, Bethel, PA 19507

WOLFE-NEWSWANGER

Bro. Clint Lamar Wolfe, son of Bro. Lamar and Sis. Jacqueline (Sligh) Wolfe and Sis. Ann Louise Newswanger, daughter of Glenn and Elaine (Horst) Newswanger were united in marriage December 6, 1997 at Schuylkill Church of the Brethren. They are residing at Box 180, Old Mountain Road, Bethel, PA 19507

MEETING NOTICES

August 9-16 - Revival Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

August 9-16 - Revival Meeting, Dallas Center, Iowa

August 15-23 - Revival Meeting, Swallow Falls, Maryland

August 30-September 6 - Revival Meeting, Shrewsbury, Penn.

September 6 - Harvest Meeting, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio
September 6-13 - Revival Meeting, Grandview, Missouri
September 13 - Harvest Meeting, Englewood, Ohio
September 13-20 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania
September 18-27 - Revival Meeting, West Fulton, Ohio
September 20-27 - Revival Meeting, Quinter, Kansas
September 20-27 - Revival Meeting, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
September 27-October 4 - Revival Meeting, Walnut Grove, Maryland
September 27 - Harvest Meeting, West Fulton, Ohio
October 4-11 - Revival Meeting, Pleasant Home, California
October 9-18 - Revival Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania
October 14-18 - Revival Meeting, Dayton, Virginia

LOVEFEAST NOTICES

August 15 - Plevna, Indiana
August 15 - Dallas Center, Iowa
August 22 - Swallow Falls, Maryland
September 12 - Grandview, Missouri
September 13 - Mohler Congregation, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
September 26 - Quinter, Kansas
October 4 - Walnut Grove, Maryland
October 17 - Dayton, Virginia
October 24 - Englewood, Ohio
October 25 - Bethel, Pennsylvania

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CORRECTION

The correct telephone number for Elder Paul Byfield is 515-993-2175.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation is planning to have a Harvest Meeting on Sunday, September 6. Come and worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

Lord willing, the Grandview, Missouri Congregation will hold Revival Meetings with Bro. Mark Cordrey from the Pleasant Home Congregation from September 6 through September 13, 1998.

A Lovefeast service will be Saturday, September 12 at 6:00 P.M.

All are welcome to come and worship with us during any of these services!

Sister Deena Andrews, Cor.

MOHLER CONGREGATION**MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

We, the Brethren and Sisters that meet at Mohler's wish to announce Lovefeast for September 13, 1998. All are welcome to attend this most anticipated meeting.

Sister Ruth N. Miller, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Our Harvest Meeting date at Englewood is September 13. Brother Terry Gunderman will be our speaker. Our invitation goes out to all to help make this a joyful time unto the Lord.

We want to remind every one of our Communion Service. If the Lord permits, our meeting will begin at 11:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M. for afternoon and Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M. on October 24. We extend a hearty invitation to all to spend Saturday and Sunday with us. May we count it a great blessing that we still have freedom to worship the Lord.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

God willing, Robert Carpenter of Plevna, Indiana plans to hold our Revival, September 13 through 20. Come and enjoy these services with us.

Sandy and Darlene Noll were taken in on former baptism. Ray Stuber had our spirit filled revival in the spring and as a result Jordan Bross and Adrian Beck were baptized. Pray for these precious souls that they remain faithful and we all work for an increase in holy living.

Sister Fern Wolf, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing the Waynesboro Congregation is looking forward to Revival Meetings, September 20 through 27. Bro. Dennis St. John of Bryan, Ohio will be our evangelist. Remember these services in prayer, that each may be drawn closer to the Lord and lost souls will be saved before it's eternally too late. Everyone is welcome to come worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Brethren and Sisters over the Brotherhood for cards, prayers and Best Wishes for us on our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary. May God bless and keep you in His love and care. We find it is a good time to count our blessings.

Brother Roy and Sister Ada Meyers

THANK YOU

With sincere appreciation, I want to thank each one for the many, many beautiful cards, enclosures, flowers, meals and gifts that I received for my seventieth birthday of July 12. Special love to the "Little Bird that spread the word."

It was a joy the way cards kept coming after the date. It is truly a joy to know you; to love and be loved by all of you - "The Family of God."

Blessings and Peace by yours!

In Christ,
Sister Clara M. Walter

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR
SEPTEMBER 1998**

September 6 - How Long Are Ye Slack - Joshua 18:1-28(Homestudy Josh. 19)

1. Why was Shiloh the place chosen for the tabernacle?
2. Why did Joshua use three men out of each tribe to divide the remaining land into seven parts?

September 13 - Cities Of Refuge - Joshua 20:1-9 (Homestudy Josh. 21)

1. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge?
2. Who was "The Avenger of Blood"?

September 20 - Love The Lord Your God - Joshua 22:1-6.

1. Why were these two and a half tribes away from their homes (tents)?
2. What is meant by "God hath given rest unto your brethren"?

September 27- Joyfulness - Ps. 5:11-12, 126:5, Luke 6:22-23.

1. Who should be joyful?
2. Why should we be joyful when we are mistreated for following Jesus?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1998

Sept. 6 - Our Speech - Pro. 17:27-28, Matt. 5:33-37, Col. 4:6, Titus 2: 7-8

1. Why does a person of knowledge spare his words?
2. Why should we not swear?

Sept. 13 - Doubts - Matt. 14:23-36, John 20:24-31, Acts 12:11-16.

1. Explain how doubt is the opposite of faith.
2. Why would not the disciples believe Peter was knocking at the door?

Sept. 20 - Courage - I Cor. 16:13-14, Phil 4:11-14, I Tim. 4:12, II Tim. 2:1-15.

1. Explain the relationship between courage and strength.
2. To what extent is courage a requirement for being an example?

Sept. 27 - Conscience - Rom. 13:1-5, Heb. 9:14-15, Acts 24:14-16, I Pet. 2:19-25, Jos. 1:9.

1. Why must we purge our conscience?
2. How can we have "A conscience void of offense toward God and toward men"?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LET US SEARCH OUR WAYS

Come, let us search our ways and see,
Have they been just and right?
In the great rule of equity
Our practice and delight?

What we would have our neighbor do,
Have we still done the same,
From others ne'er withheld the due
Which we from others claim?

Do we, in all we sell or buy,
Integrity maintain?
And knowing God is always nigh,
Renounce unrighteous gain?

Then may we raise our modest prayer
To God, the just and kind;
May humbly cast on him our care,
And hope his grace to find.

-Isaac Watts

RETURNING TO GILGAL

Between the crossing of the Red Sea and the crossing of the River Jordan, the children of Israel had traveled many miles, many of them unnecessary. The first generation of leaders had passed from the scene. Only Joshua and Caleb were left of the adults who had left Egypt. It was God's miracle that they had crossed both the Red Sea and the Jordan dryshod. God could deliver His people from out of the bondage of Egypt and He could bring them into the Promised Land.

During their journey they had been instructed by God through Moses and Aaron. They had been given the Law at Sinai. They had begun their system of sacrifices. They had built the tabernacle. They had been given many lessons during their forty year journey.

They had conquered the area east of the Jordan, which would become a part of the inheritance of some of the tribes. After the death of Moses, they were led by Joshua into the Promised Land.

The waters of the Jordan, though in floodstage, parted to give them a dry pathway into Canaan. After they had passed through the river, they made camp at Gilgal. Gilgal would be their camp while they conquered Canaan. As the army conquered the land, the people stayed at Gilgal. Between battles, they all were at Gilgal.

Their first act upon settling at Gilgal had been the circumcision of males born along the way. Those who had not been circumcised before now received that rite. After all had been properly initiated,

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they held a Passover service. This memorialized their escape from Egypt, when all the first born were slain, except for those behind doors whose lintels and posts had been smeared with the Lamb's blood. The blood was the salvation of those who would apply it.

Joshua led his army to fight the heathen at various places throughout the land of Canaan. After each battle he would return to Gilgal. It was not only returning to their families, but also to the foundational truths of God's direction for them. It brought them back to the place of their circumcision and first Passover. It reminded them of their circumcision that pictured the putting away of the unneeded flesh. It was a cutting away that was to make them dependant upon God. They were symbolically cutting away the carnality of their past lives and identifying themselves with God. The Passover not only looked back to their deliverance from Egypt but also forward to the shed blood of the coming Messiah. He would be the sacrificial lamb whose blood would be spread upon men's doorposts throughout history.

There needs to be a Gilgal in our Christian life. There needs to be a definite time and place that we can look back to when we identified with our Saviour. We need to have a Gilgal not just some hazy surmising of a change in our Spiritual lives. We need to look back to that time when we made a definite commitment to believe and follow the Lord.

Today, there is a lack of commitment in all areas of peoples' lives. Our Gilgal should make us different from the world that floats along toward eternity without any definite course being chosen or followed. There is a definite plan that God has established that we might make and exhibit that commitment. Just as circumcision was a definite, irreversible act, so the Christian can look back to his baptism as a definite act that marks his initiation into the family of God. Adult, believer's baptism is not typically repeated, so it stands as a definite landmark of commitment.

The Passover as a time of remembrance and prophecy was repeated from time to time. This allowed a time for rededication to the commitments that had been made in the past. As they remembered the details of their deliverance from Egypt they could renew their dedication to the God who had delivered them. The Christian sitting at the Lovefeast table is reminded of the price paid for his

salvation and urged to look forward to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. This should bring about a sense of rededication in his service of God.

Christians like the Children of Israel need to return periodically to Gilgal. Christians need to be reminded of the basis of their spiritual, eternal lives. Christians need to remember Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, buried and risen again.

They need to have a definite time to look back to as their individual time of commitment. Although that commitment hopefully will deepen and broaden, there needs to be a starting place to look back and see.

Is there a Gilgal in your life? Is there a definite place of decision and commitment? Is there a periodic renewal of those commitments?

M.C.Cook

THE PRAYERS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

We think of the trials, persecutions, and other things that he suffered, yet he continued to labor for the cause of Christ. We think of these things that made the Apostle Paul, the great apostle that he was. Indeed he was a great man, in the eyes of God and of the church.

But I have been thinking of the prayer life of the apostle and of the examples that he gave for us to follow.

No doubt he had prayed before, but the first prayer he made in the beginning of a new life for Christ was, "...who art thou Lord?" and the second, was, "What will you have me to do?" Acts 9:5-6. After three days without sight, the Lord said of him, for behold he prayeth. Verse 11.

At Antioch the church fasted and prayed for Paul, before sending Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey. When Paul and Silas came to Phillipi they went to place where prayer was wont to be made. Acts 16:13. After they had been beaten and cast into prison, they prayed and sang praises unto God and the prisoners heard them. Verse 25.

With the Ephesian brethren he kneeled down and prayed with

them all. Acts 20:36. (Both public and private prayers were a part of his life.)

He prayed for his own people. Although much of the persecution which he endured came from them, he said, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." Rom. 10:1.

In each of epistles he reminded them that he prayed for them regularly, and gave thanks for them. See the beginnings and the endings of each of his epistles.

He exhorted all to pray always and to give thanks in all things. I Thess. 5:17-18.

He desired the prayers of the saints on his behalf. "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith." II Thess. 3:1-2.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judea; and that my service, which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed. Now the God of peace be with you all." Rom. 15:30-33.

"But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you." Philemon 22.

"Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Heb. 13:18-21.

Our mountains can be molehills,
If we take time each day
To go to our dear Father God,

Who hears us as we pray!

It need not be a church pew,
But silence of one's room,
Where we can go to God in prayer,
But not time be too soon!

So rather than our heartaches,
Which can be great indeed,
We need to count our blessings all,
'Tis then our prayers succeed!

For God can lift our burdens,
As tho' they feathers be,
If we but give our cares to him,
Whose eye the sparrow sees!

So let us seek our Father,
On each and every day,
Who hears petitions one and all,
No matter when we pray!

-Sancie Earman King

As was the prayer of the Apostle that grace and peace be unto you, so is the prayer of your unworthy servant. To God be all glory and praise, for he is worthy. God bless you all.

Brother William Carpenter

1998 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

MONDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Elder Harley Flory. James 1:26-27. There is a difference in pure religion. We are God's creation. Visiting is doing and going forth. Many people do not know the Heavenly Father.

MONDAY A.M.

Bro. Dave Snyder opened. Matt. 5:21-24, I Pet. 3. Daily prayer is very important with our Heavenly Father.

Bible Study - I Cor. 13. Charity-the Excellent Way.

Bro. Phil Gish. John 17:13-17. Jesus died by the hand of evil men. The world is going to hate us since we are Christians. How well do we handle the disappointments in our life? The Heavenly Father and Christ want us to trust them. The purpose of affliction is to prove us. Remember to trust in the Lord during our affliction. God promises afflictions will never be more than we can bear. There is a time to be a man of God. Use compassion with love, if we have a problem with one. God is watching, and He knows our heart. Those that are in trouble use love, and help them with their difficulties. The Apostle Paul had many sufferings in his life with the people. He went to God in prayer for help. Seek the blessing if we get hurt feelings. God is with us. Job said, "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

Bro. Fred Johnson closed with prayer.

MONDAY P.M.

Bro. Mark Cordrey opened. Col. 1. God is holding up our pre-eminence. Our goal is to live true to the Church. We are the branches and we bear fruit. Moses learned to be a shepherd. Moses was a great leader of the children of Israel. In the New Testament we have the Trinity. God chose many people in the world to uphold Christ. We need to be the salt. We need to be a light. Eight souls gathered in Germany. There they united together to form our church. They wanted a spiritually organized church. At Schwarzenau, Germany eight souls held a baptizing. The Apostle Paul said, "We need to work together." There were many divisions from that first church in Germany. It was that hybrid that caused the problem. We need to have a relationship with God. The secret of Hybrid Church is back to the beginning. Have that personal relationship with God and bring that into a fellowship.

Bro. Tom St. John. Third Generation Christians. Judges 2. Israel outlived Joshua. Joshua lived to be very old. They knew the great works of the Lord. How do things change from one generation to another? No one can understand. If we look back three

generations we can see many changes. The commandment of the Lord was to teach children diligently. The ark of the covenant was a reminder for the children of Israel to serve all the day of Joshua. Later the Israelites failed to worship God and served Baalim. They had very much disbelief. God was very much displeased with the children of Israel. Generations of change are not wrong if God is there. We need to be first generation Christians. Where is my generation today? It is to be Jesus Christ and His commandments for us to follow as our proving grounds.

Bro. Dave Snyder closed. Where there is no vision we will suffer spiritually. Make a covenant with God.

MONDAY EVENING

Bro. Marlin Marks opened. Deut. 12:28-32. We have come to worship Christ. Who are we following? Are we following Jesus Christ? Does all the world know how to worship our real God? What God is America serving? Our only means of salvation is through Jesus Christ. Be willing to be directed by the Holy Spirit.

Bro. Warren Smith. Stability. Heb. 13:9. Have our hearts secure in the Holy Spirit. Keep our heart established for a purpose. Stability is very important to all of us in every thing we do. Be steadfast in the work of the Lord. There will be false teachers among you to end stability in the Lord. James 1:1-6. Pride will ruin our stability. The Apostle Paul told us there will be perilous times in the last days. We are all tempted and we can lose our stability. Stay rooted and grounded in the Lord.

Bro. John Pepper. Every Word of God is Pure. Prov. 30:5. Our mission is to speak to some soul about their salvation. Jesus said, "Who believeth in me shall never die." Our Lovefeast that we have in our church is the Lord's Lovefeast. Jesus is the beginning and the end. He came from God. Jesus had a tongue to save man. Serving Christ really pays. Sometimes we need revival. Is Jesus real to you? If He is, tell someone else. We are known and read by all men. Everybody is welcome to come to our church and hear the Gospel.

Bro. Ronald Marks closed. Be rooted and grounded in truth. If our heart is fixed to the Lord, nothing can change us. Does your life show up to your neighbors that we believe in the Holy Word. We do

not conform to this world.

To Be Continued
Sister Alice Heisey

Editor's Note

Due to a communications mix-up, the Kenya Knotes originally written for publishing in the August issue of the Bible Monitor were not received until after the deadline. The material intended for the August issue as well as the material written for the September issue will appear in this issue. We trust all will enjoy these articles. May we each continue to pray for those who have gone to serve as well as for those there who have given their lives and souls to the Lord.

KENYA KNOTES

(August)

It was a rainy night. She carried everything she owned plus a baby and had a small child walking beside her. She climbed into the van. I did not understand why she was there. She had been tricked out of the vegetables she was going to sell to earn money.

We brought her to a small two room apartment. It had cement floors and a tin roof. The walls were in fair condition structurally. She did have a few stools to sit upon and a new looking kerosene stove but no kerosene or lamps or blankets or bed or any other furniture. It was too late that day to buy a blanket so I borrowed one for a promise of a new one in return. While people were fetching a blanket, lamp and kerosene, I placed the older child on my knee and hummed a simple hymn, as we listened to the rain on the roof. I just could not imagine these children sleeping in these cold rooms without beds or blankets.

Soon candles were brought and a small round wick lamp. They are made from tin cans, cost about thirty five cents, use very little kerosene and are as bright as a candle. Now the blanket has arrived but we still lacked kerosene. So I stood the child on the floor. She showed no fear or joy or impatience or anger. She was tired and quietly accepted things the way they were.

We left for the mission house to get some kerosene and a bucket for water and returned quickly to the house, making a mental note to get some extra blankets to keep ready for next time. Good nights were said.

I was sad and filled with questions that I would never know the answers to. By American standards this lifestyle is uncommon. By Kenyan standards it is better than many. The needs of this family are the same as thousands and thousands of other Kenyans. Poverty and corruption are everywhere and feed each other. People tell small lies to find enough food for today. The little money people earn is stolen by thieves or squandered by public officials or spent unwisely by themselves. I am sure this woman was not ignorant of the methods of deception seemingly necessary to provide for the needs of her family. Did I really help her? Did I sow any seed?

My mother-in-law said that "God must love poor people because he made so many of them." Sometimes I envy Christ in that He could and did heal ALL who came to Him. He fed thousands at the drop of a fish. But He also said, "For the poor always ye have with you;..." (John 12:8) The Apostle Paul said, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound..." (Phil. 4:12) In America I felt I usually knew how to be abased but not in Kenya, learning how to abound is a difficult task indeed.

I know God's Word has the answers to my most difficult questions. "...visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction:..." (James 1:27) "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them...Teaching them..." (Matt. 28:19-20) "...if any would not work, neither should he eat." (II Thess. 3:10) "...them that are rich...ready to distribute..." (I Tim. 6:17-18) "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight." (Psa. 101:7) "And as ye go preach...heal...cleanse ...raise the dead, cast out devils...enquire who in it is worthy...shake off the dust...beware, be...wise...and harmless." Matt. 10:7-17) "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Phil 4:13) "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." (James 1:5) Oh Lord, forgive me of envy and doubt. Thank you for the strength and wisdom of your Word. Grant me your words for this day. Amen.

Brother Tim Scofield

Greetings in the name of our Lord.

I mentioned to some of you the conditions of a hospital birth here in Kapenguria. I have witnessed three births at the hospital here and felt a desire to help our mothers here with a better birth experience.

We have several women due in the next few months. One of our mothers was due the end of June. Alice is the only one so far to ask if we would assist her in a home birth. Debra, Florence and I were very excited and also nervous about helping at the birth. Even though we are limited in knowledge, we feel the Lord leading us to help our mothers in this way.

Alice started early labor on Friday. Baby had not come by Sunday afternoon, so the three of us went to her home to check on her. Her pains were about ten minutes apart. We decided to take her for a walk. We walked to another sister's home, her name is also Alice, and had tea and a nice visit. It was nearly dark as we headed back to Alice's home. Her pains were now four minutes apart and much stronger. We sat around her, visiting and talking with excitement about the soon to arrive baby.

We sat out our supplies, rubbed her back, talked calming words and helped our sister through this laborious time. She became so exhausted and the pains were so strong, we gave her a few drops of skullcap to help her relax. She was able to relax and even sleep a little.

We felt since she was resting, we also would rest. About forty minutes later we awoke to the sound of our sister giving the one push that delivered her daughter into this world. It was such a quick, easy delivery that even Alice almost slept through it.

We all jumped to our feet, caring for the baby and Alice. Debra cut the cord. I wrapped the baby in a towel. Florence had catnip tea ready for Alice. The placenta easily came with very little blood. The mother's clothes were changed and the bedding cleaned. Mother was comfortable in her own bed with her daughter beside her. Alice called the proud father, Gilbert, in to see his new daughter.

She wanted us to stay the night, so we bedded down. The night went well and at early morning Florence went for a sister in the

church, who lived close by, to come and stay a few days to help Alice. Regina was glad to come.

The little girl weighed seven and a half pounds and is twenty inches long. She will not receive her Swahili name until her father's parents come to visit. Her grandmother will name her. Then, her parents will give her a Christian name.

Oh, how we praise God. We knew so little and yet we all felt a peace, that God was with us and all was well. We thank Him that this little one came into the world surrounded by love.

Before we sent this letter off, the little one was given her Christian name, Terry.

God's Peace
Sister Terry Scofield

SOME DAYS

Some days I'm a warrior

Some days I'm a priest

Some days I just know

I'll be invited to your feast.

Other days I'm a prisoner

Or maybe just a thief

Chained to this life of sin

By my suffering and my grief.

Some days I wait eagerly

Some days I'm alright

Some days you turn my darkness

To your everlasting light.

Other days I'm blind

And can not see my way

Stumbling in the darkness

Longing for the day.

-Brother William Scofield

After picking up Jeremiah and his family at the airport in Nairobi we headed back to the hotel where we were staying. The next day while driving through Nairobi a man reached through the window of the van and took my hat. William was sitting next to the door and jumped out, with me close behind, and chased the man. As the man looked over his shoulder his eyes grew wide with terror at the sight of two white men chasing and quickly gaining on him. As he began to realize he could not out run us he dropped my hat which was now misshapen and has a black hand print on it, and kept on running.

Not long after that another man reached in the window and got his fingers around my watch. I waved my arm and smacked his hand against the top of the window as he retracted his hand. I still have my hat and watch.

Brother Matthew Scofield

AFRICA!

Greetings in the name of Jesus! No doubt about it, we are in Africa!

We left Chicago on June 14 at 7:20 P.M. We had a good flight with a one hour lay over in Amsterdam. We arrived at Nairobi, Kenya at 8:40 P.M., June 15. Our luggage was waiting for us, and Scofield's were, too. What welcome faces! They almost thought we were not on that plane because it took so long for us to get visas. We were on our way to the hotel by 10:15 P.M.

It was Friday morning, the 19th before we headed to our new home. By then we already had a taste of Kenya: beautiful flowers and trees, dirty beggar children, modern sky scrapers, tiny thatch markets by the street. We also enjoyed the sights on the way to Mokatano: zebras standing by the road, thatch homes, the Great Rift Valley, cacti growing for miles as a hedge by the road.

So many adjustments: learning to understand Kenyan English, learning to cook with Kenya food, learning to accept the fact that our baby will be dirty, even in the house. This is all getting easier with time! I do understand most Kenyan English now, even some Swahili. Meals are a challenge, with very little meat, and very, very little good cheese. We are getting used to the limited diet and no fresh milk. We did have pizza last week. We bought Italian Salami

and a little cheese in Eldoret. With the powdered pizza sauce mix I brought and frybread rolled thin and fried, we had pizza! It was not quite homelike, but it was good!

Terry says Hosanna looks like a little Kenyan when she is dirty! I have not learned to appreciate it. I try to keep her face clean, and wash her up before naptime and bedtime.

Hosanna is getting along very well. She loves the little native tots. She gets all excited and will walk right up to them. She loves bananas and eats them every day. She's a real pro at it too.

Though there are many changes and adjustments we are thankful God is the same in Africa as He is in America. He loves us and has taken good care of us thus far. We have had unusually good health. The weather has been beautiful. We are thankful to be in Africa!

Blessings to you all,
Sister Debra Johnson

THE FUNERAL

On June 21 there was much discussion at church here as to what to do with William, a dead man. He was not a member, but his mother is. So for her sake they thought we should help.

It was decided after church that we would assist "Go-Go". (This means grandmother. They call her this because she is very old.) We were told to meet at the mortuary at 10:00 A.M. sharp, the next day.

We arrived there at about 10 and around 11 or 11:30 everyone else came. (This is African time.) I was told to be prepared, I might have to do a committal service. What could I say about a heathen man I did not know, who had been dead for over a week?

Tim, Terry, Hosea, Gilbert, William's brother and I went to claim the body. Tim, Terry and I were told to stop fifteen feet from the door. They would not let us go in. I was thankful! (There is no refrigeration.) The smell was indescribable. We backed up to the hill before we got sick! Gilbert said later, "You didn't know where to put your nose in there!"

They were told we must pay the bills first. This is where the story really begins. When an individual dies his family is respon-

sible to pay hospital bills and mortuary expenses. Usually, the mourners each give a little to help. This money is given to one person who will claim the body.

However, in this case, the one who was given the money spent it on other things. We talked to the Hospital secretary. He said if the group could just pay part of it, that would be fine.

The church and mission were each giving, but the non-Christian brother was very hard. He wanted us to pay it all. He did have a job, and he also had chickens. Tim spoke rather rebukingly to him about his responsibility. We decided to go to his house to get three chickens to which he agreed. (I do not think he thought we would really go, but we did.) He, Gilbert, Hosea, Tim and I arrived and found the chickens running wild, so we had a time trying to catch even one. When we did, the man gave us some money so we would not waste more time chasing chickens. Then we had to sell it. Finally, around 2:00 P.M. or so, we were back at the hospital. Thankfully, the brother came, because a relative must claim the body.

We then dug the hole and buried the body in the casket Gilbert had made. Hosea had the service, so I was relieved of it.

Now my question comes to you! How much are you willing to give up for your brother? When we see someone struggling or dying spiritually, do we take the time to pray, to stand in the gap for them? Do we visit? Or are WE too stubborn, and refuse to give up just "three chickens"? Many times the sacrifice is small but the help so great! "Lift up the hands that hang down and strengthen the feeble knees."

In His Service,
Brother Jeremiah Johnson

STOP THE WAR

Bombs and bullets aim at me,
All in all it isn't peace.
In 1914 German saw war as peace,
After a short break,
In 1939 again war broke.
Where are we leading to?

Many people died
At the same scene many people were made cripple.
Is this a way of life?
We need peace.
Numberless wars break
Failure to stop them
Super powers, why cherish war?

In Yugoslavia a war broke,
Between them America stands
Not to separate war but wants talk,
Can you talk to angry people?
Innocent blood is being shed
Furthermore children and adults being killed.
A war that leaves many
Fatherless, landless, also in poverty.
Should we entertain war or restrain from it.
In Somalia people ran for life
In Rwanda it is more than worse.
In Liberia it was chronic.
Which way should we lead to?
At the war people's daughters are being raped
And sons being killed.
Super powers why cherish war?

At the Gulf allied need wars,
America engineering it.
Russia need peace treaty,
Where should we escape to?
There Saddam wants Kuwait
Not in peace but in war.
He uses people as his shield.

India—wants nuclear bomb
To reduce population.
United Nations, why
Stand and speculate this?
Netanyahu of Israel is bold.
Jews and Palestinians are scared,
United Nations,
Prevent war epidemic in the world.
Veto powers why cherish war?

An advancement in Russia
Means an advancement in America
An advancement doesn't mean development
But rather war engineering.
If a button is pressed in America
Weapons are manufactured,
Then that's the end of the world.
Why punish the world?
Instead of fighting against Aids, juvenile
delinquency, malnutrition, deserts, and
poor machinery
You use the money for sponsoring war
Whereby Jet B-52 American made
Costs dollars that could feed Kenyans for five years.
Why don't we eradicate war?
Veto powers why cherish war?

For that Christians fast for peace,
Dunkard Brethren, be strong in the Lord,
Put on the whole armour of God,
To overcome wiles of the devil.
Wrestle not against

Flesh and blood, but against
Principalities, powers and rulers
Of darkness of this world.
Paul Stump and Verling Wolfe
Pick up your Bibles and preach peace,
Rudy Shaffer, Timothy Scofield and Jeremiah
Pray for peace.
Sister Terry, Fern, Debra and Mary Stump,
Cry for peace.
Milton Cook and Dale Jamison,
Suffer for peace.
Henry Walker, Jacob Ness, Warren Smith
And Dennis St. John, follow peace with all men.
Without which no man shall see the Lord.
My dear Kenyans and Americans, seek peace.
Blessed are peacemakers
For they shall be called the children of God.

Jesus my Lord, Jesus my Lord,
Son of God establish peace.
You are the prince of peace.
You were bruised, wounded, beaten and hanged
For us to have peace.
There's peace in thy blood
Oh! Mighty God, Everlasting Father
We need peace in Ethiopia, Israel,
Kenya, Rwanda, Eritria and other Nations.
Veto powers why cherish war?

Brother James Musumba

KENYA KNOTES

(September)

I am very good at following instructions. I can read a car manual and carry out the specified operations. I can take a class and do everything the teacher says within my abilities and limits. I can read a map and follow a route to my destination. I can get a job and execute faithfully the whims of my employer. I can read God's Word and follow God's plan first and know that all other instructions must agree with God's or not be followed.

I am eager to receive instructions and follow them. But there are some instructions that I resist strongly and do reluctantly and only in part and avoid and put off. It is those instructions that tell me to give instruction to those who do not want to hear. Instructions to correct, discipline, confront, rebuke, chastise, reject and put them away. I would much rather do all these things to myself many times over than to even think of doing such things to someone else. Correcting or rebuking a Christian brother or friend, a co-worker or stranger is unthinkable.

God's Word has instruction I do not want to follow. Heb. 12:7, "...for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not." Prov. 22:15, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Titus 3:10, "A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject." Matt. 18:15-18, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault,...if he will not hear thee then take with thee one or two more...if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church..." I Cor. 5:13, "But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."

Now I am in Kenya. I was sure this was a land full of people hungry for God's Word. They merely needed the seed to be planted and a great tree would grow. That was my wisdom. God's plan and reality is different. I found people full of strange teachings and ways, resistant to new ideas and comfortable with the path that they saw as life and going to church. Yes, I also found those who are ready for instruction, willing to learn and change. Many are those needing correction, chastisement, rebuking and rejection. Oh, Lord, not this, not me, somebody else...yes me, I will try. I will do.

Let me relate an instance of this need. He was a minister, understanding the scripture and our doctrine better than myself on many points. A brother, a friend denying the needs of himself for the needs of the church. But iniquity was upon him. Sin of which he was convicted, even before he heard of the Dunkard Brethren Church. Sin for which he was forgiven but would be for a better lifetime paying the consequences. Sin that disallows him for the ministry. He hoped beyond hope that there was a way he could continue. But I knew it must not be. It must be me to carry out correction, to tell him his fault, to cleanse the church... I did. It hurt. I was God's will. I know growth will happen for both of us and I pray for the growth of the church.

There is a danger that those with a log in their eye will grasp at the specks. But how long do we ignore the logs in our brother's eye before he becomes blind to the truth. Removing a log that has become comfortable will be painful but it must be done. We can help our brother to do it himself. We must help him see the log. Then he must pull it out.

I must ask you, is there a brother or sister whom you must tell their fault? Are there those that need correction, rebuking, chastisement, God's will. We will grow.

God's peace

Brother Tim Scofield

HOW DO YOU KNOW GOD CALLED YOU TO BE A MISSIONARY?

I was asked that question so often before we came to Kenya. Often, when I would answer that we need more workers in Kenya, I would be surprised at the answers they gave. "Your doing something I would never do." "I could never do that, I would miss my ice maker, dish washer, micro-wave too much." "You would be good at it, but I could never live like that." "There's too much disease over there." "What about my children? Something might happen to them." I wondered if they had given the same answers to God.

Who is called to be a missionary? If we are the children of God, we are called to be a missionary. True, we do not have to go to Africa to be a missionary. We can serve God and preach to those around us, no matter where we are. However, if there is a call for

help in another country should we think that God does not mean us, but rather someone else in the church we are sure would do a better job than us. Oh, that there would be so many willing to go that they would have to take turns, or even better, be able to start more than one work in Africa. The support they would feel, knowing the love of the ones at home for the work being done. The desire burning in all those hearts for the salvation of others. Oh, what joy, what hope!

If we are not willing to go and serve our Lord in Africa, how well are we serving Him at home? Are we concerned about the salvation of our neighbor? Are we willing to give of our selves till it hurts?

Think about the life of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Think hard about it. Then, if you can come before Him and say "I can't go," you truly are not called to be a missionary.

Thank you, God, for sending your child to this world of sin and disease. Thank you Lord Jesus for being willing to come. Willing to leave a perfect place to live among us and teach the salvation of our God. Thank you dear Jesus for being willing to die for me, that I may live. Thank you Lord, Praise you Lord.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Love in Christ Jesus
Sister Terry Scofield

THE ROAD

Well, life in Africa is definitely NOT boring, that's for sure. Driving is like playing a video game of sorts. You have to dodge between the chuck holes, swerve to miss people on bicycles, and try not to run over any sheep or goats.

Sounds a bit like life, does it not? Dodging between temptations, swerve to miss Satan and his minions, and try not to take the wrong road.

Like on Sunday, July 26, when we went to Kiptoi for Church.

We were bouncing along down the dirt road having a good 'ol time, when all of a sudden, we saw it. Right there in front of us. The tension mounted as thoughts ran through our brains like Mountain Dew down a teenage guy's throat. It loomed before us and my life flashed before my eyes. It was...a VERY muddy road, and it was going up hill.

"So much for Kiptoi", is what was running through my mind. I could not have been farther from the truth.

James Musumba suddenly voices an opinion I did not want to hear. "Onward ever, backward never." And that is just what we did.

In less than two minutes we were sideways in the road and we had a flat tire. Changing that tire was not exactly my idea of a Sunday afternoon picnic, but we did get it done.

"Well, that's it, we can go home now," I thought. Wrong again.

We pushed that van (literally) all the way up that hill. But we made it. I thought that it was absolutely LUDICROUS to be so persistent, but now I see that we as Christians should be that way more often. Sometimes Satan hurls muddy roads at us. Sometimes GOD hurls muddy roads at us. Sometimes on this road called LIFE, we get a flat tire. But no matter what comes our way, we must persevere.

Keep on battling up those muddy slopes and keep your eyes on Jesus Christ.

In Him,
Brother William Scofield

On the date of July 4 we went to Uganda to get our visas renewed. Crossing the border is a very lengthy task. First you fill out an exit form from Kenya. After the guard approves it you pass through a big iron gate. Then begins about two hours of waiting and trying to convince the military guards that you are not a Dunkard terrorist.

While we were waiting a man came by pushing a bicycle with so many bananas on it we could hardly see the bicycle. Jeremiah got out his camera to take a picture, but when he did a guard came over to the van and said that he had taken a picture of a police officer. He then gave Jeremiah a choice. He could give the officer his film or his camera. Needless to say, Jeremiah gave him the film.

After this we filled out an entry form and went through another iron gate into Uganda. We stayed one night in Uganda, then went back to the border to see if they would let us back into Kenya. Well, they didn't.

So then, we had to drive to Rwanda. On the way there, we came across an enormous hole in the road. As we watched, a big seven ton truck disappeared in the hole and came out the other side. As we went through the hole we lost the spare tire somewhere in the middle, but with the help of the people there we were soon moving again. We reached the border without further peril. We crossed over to Rwanda on foot, renewed our visas and walked back. We made it back to Kenya without any more trouble.

"Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due, custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." Romans 13:7.

Brother Matthew Scofield

WHEN IT RAINS...IT HAILS?

Several weeks ago, our water was shut off. We get water from the public supply. It's rather dirty and unsafe for us to drink or wash in, but it's usable, once it's boiled - good. So when no water came, we wondered. I climbed the tower and looked in the tank, sure enough - empty.

Normally, we have a pretty consistent water supply. The tank is filled at least once a day. Now how would we flush toilets, and wash clothes or dishes? We collect rain water to put through the purifier to drink, but we had only so much rain water.

The first few days we scrimped and saved (wore our clothes twice as long, and so forth) but finally we had to go get river water. You must be careful even touching that water, to avoid typhoid fever and who knows what parasites! We hoped and prayed the water would come back on. Then we found out the electric company had shut off the water company because they had not paid their bill. How long might we go without water?

We began earnestly to pray for rain. We could use rain water for everything, with much less fear. We prayed and prayed, and used river water. We did bleach it, to make it safer. But we were ever running out of rain water for drinking. For a few days it scarcely

rained, which is strange for the rainy season.

Sunday came, a little gray. It sprinkled during church. Someone said, "That's it for today!" But we prayed, trusting it would rain. As we ate dinner it began to shower, then really poured. We filled all the buckets, the 100 L barrel, and most of the dishpans. It slowed to a drizzle. We were happily satisfied with the answer to our prayer. We felt we had plenty.

Little did we know what God had planned! It began thundering and lightening. And the torrents came! The containers were full, now what? The tower! William and Matthew took turns pulling the buckets up to dump into the 500 L barrel at the top. Tim and I collected and carried rain water to them.

It rained harder and harder, and the wind blew! I was inside dumping water when I looked out and saw the boys on the porch scrambling to pick up something. IT WAS HAIL, marble sized! It piled up next to the house like snow.

We filled the tank outside and all our containers. What a miracle! I collected some hail to fill our little cooler. The boys came in and we gathered around praising God for again doing "Exceeding, abundantly, above all that we ask or think"! AMEN.

Praising the Lord,
Brother Jeremiah Johnson

A MARRIAGE CELEBRATION

Greetings in the name of Jesus! In Kenya, just as in America, there are times of grief and times of joy. Recently we joined in a time of joy.

James, our interpreter, Swahili teacher, translator and good brother in the Lord invited us to his wedding celebration on August 4. It was not a Kenyan custom, but more like an American wedding reception. James and Emelda were actually married in April. She was a friend of his from school and they had gotten out of touch. He left home in April without telling his mission, and came back a week later with his new bride. They were already married. This was not well looked upon by James' family, and they eyed his critically to see if he was sincerely committed or not. Normally there is a big, expensive celebration for a wedding.

We left in the morning, picked up several people, and traveled

the half hour to James and Emelda's home. They live in town, in a 11x14 room, which is nice and of good repair. We had been there before and now the house was set for the big day. With the help of the neighbors, it was like a big livingroom - chairs and couches all around, and five small, low tables spaced in the center. Each was covered with a mat or doily. We visited here for a while, then Terry and I went to the "kitchen". It was a room much like James' home, where no one lived. Today it was the kitchen. There were two charcoal burners on the floor, and one wood fire. All three had bubbling pots. Several of the sisters worked busily, preparing food. It smelled so good!

Soon we were served tea or hot chocolate, jelly bread and biscuits. Hosanna was tired so I put her to sleep and lay her on her quilt, on the stabilizing slats under our little table. It was the coolest place available, and she slept. Then we went for a walk. The women went one way, and the men the other. After a couple hours we came back for the feast. So much food! We had chopped potatoes, fried chicken, chicken stew, chicken soup, seasoned rice, greens, ugali, oranges, bananas, pineapples and punch. We tried all but the stew. It had chicken parts we usually do not eat! It was a delicious meal! Then the group of thirty or so gathered for the spiritual feast. We sang, prayed and Hosea preached a wedding sermon. It was excellent for the occasion. The room was sweltering, so they kept the service fairly short. We prayed for the couple, offered congratulations, some gifts were presented, and we took pictures. As we went home we prayed that this marriage WOULD be a bit of heaven on earth. So few marriages in Kenya are happy. Pray for James and Emelda and all the other married couples here. Pray that God might use us to help them have happy marriages.

Serving in Kenya,
Sister Debra Johnson

HUMBLLED AND EXALTED

The Maker of the Universe
As man, for man was made a curse
The claims of law which He had made
Unto the uttermost He paid.

His holy fingers made the bough
Which grew the thorns that crowned His brow.
The nails that pierced His hands were mined
In secret places He designed.

He made the forest whence there sprung
The tree on which His body hung;
He died upon a cross of wood
Yet made the hill on which it stood.

The sky that darkened o'er His head
By Him above the earth was spread;
The sun that hid from Him its face
By His decree was poised in space.

The spear which spilled His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God;
The grave in which His form was laid
Was hewn from rocks His hands had made.

The throne on which He now appears
Was His from everlasting years,
But a new glory crowns His brow
And every knee to Him shall bow.

Humbly submitted by
Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

MEETING NOTICES

August 30-September 6 - Revival Meeting, Shrewsbury, Penn.

September 6 - Harvest Meeting, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio
September 6-13 - Revival Meeting, Grandview, Missouri
September 13 - Harvest Meeting, Englewood, Ohio
September 13-20 - Revival Meeting, Bethel, Pennsylvania
September 20-27 - Revival Meeting, Quinter, Kansas
September 20-27 - Revival Meeting, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
September 28-October 4 - Revival Meeting, Walnut Grove, Maryland
October 2-11 - Revival Meeting, West Fulton, Ohio
October 11 - Harvest Meeting, West Fulton, Ohio
October 4-11 - Revival Meeting, Pleasant Home, California
October 11-18 - Revival Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania
October 21-25 - Revival Meeting, Dayton, Virginia
November 1-8 - Revival Meeting, Mohlers, Mechanicsburg, Penn.

LOVEFEAST NOTICES

September 12 - Grandview, Missouri
September 13 - Mohler Congregation, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
September 26 - Quinter, Kansas
October 4 - Walnut Grove, Maryland
October 24 - Dayton, Virginia
October 24 - Englewood, Ohio
October 25 - Bethel, Pennsylvania
November 7 - Pleasant Home, California
November 8 - Lititz, Pennsylvania
November 8 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

NEWS ITEMS

E-MAIL

Those wishing to e-mail articles or news items to the Editor may do so. His address is m.cook1@juno.com.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Brother Kenneth Wilkerson from Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania

will be joining us to conduct revival services beginning Monday evening, September 28, and concluding with the Lovefeast celebration on Sunday evening, October 4. Your prayers/presence would be inspiring and encouraging to us during these efforts.

Sister Dorcas Shelly, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to Revival meetings, October 2 through October 11. Bro. Gordon Jamison of Quinter, Kansas will be our evangelist. Please remember these services in your prayers.

Harvest Meeting will be on October 11. All are cordially invited to attend at anytime. (NOTICE: THE DATES ARE CHANGED FROM THE LIST IN THE AUGUST MONITOR.)

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Home Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meeting, October 4 through October 11. Bro. Jason Reed from Myerstown, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist.

We invite you to come and enjoy these spiritual blessings with us.

Sister Blanche Newman, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz, Pennsylvania Congregation plans to have revival meetings October 11 through 18, with Bro. Leonard Wertz as the speaker. Services are 9:30 A.M. Sundays and 7:30 P.M. each evening. All are invited to attend. Please keep us in your prayers.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

We, the Congregation of Dayton, Virginia would like to change the date of our meetings from the third Saturday, October 17, 1998, to the weekend of the fourth Saturday, October 24, 1998.

The meeting will begin on Wednesday, October 21, 1998 at 7:30 P.M. and end on Sunday, October 25, 1998. Lovefeast services will be on Saturday, October 24, 1998 at 7:00 P.M. with Examination Services at 4:00 P.M.

The Lord willing the evangelist will be Bro. Paul Nell from Walnut Grove, Maryland.

We invite one and all to be with our little number.

Sister Lizette Bittinger, Cor.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MOHLER CONGREGATION

The Lord willing, we the Mohler Congregation, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, will be holding Revival Meetings, November 1 through 8, 1998. Brother Paul Nell from the Walnut Grove Congregation has consented to be our evangelist. Please come praying that souls may be saved and saints revived.

Sister Ruth A. Miller, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview, Missouri Congregation has a new member. Her name is Ellen Byars. The Lord has answered many prayers and made it possible for her to move close to our church. Please pray for her as she desires to raise her eight year old son according to God's will. Notes of encouragement to her would be appreciated.

Ellen Byars

441 Broadway

Peculiar, MO 64078

816-779-7409

Sister Deena Andrews, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1998

October 4 - God Brings The Tribes Together - Joshua 22:7-34.

1. For what reason were the children of Israel about to go to war among themselves?
2. For what purpose had the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built an altar?

October 11 - Joshua's Charge To Live Faithful - Joshua 23:1-16.

1. Why did it take courage "to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses"?

2. What would cause the anger of the Lord to be kindled against His people that they would perish from off the land which He had given them?

October 18 - Joshua Encourages Israel - Joshua 24:1-15.

1. Why did Joshua at this time review the history of the children of Israel?
2. How do you serve the Lord in sincerity and in truth?

October 25 - Hospitality - Matt. 25:34-46, I Pet. 4:9, Heb. 13:2.

1. Why is it so important to extend hospitality willingly?
2. How would it be possible to entertain angels without knowing they are angels?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1998

October 4 - The Ten Lepers - Luke 17:11-19.

1. Why did only one return to thank Jesus for healing him?
2. After the healing of the ten lepers, how would the life of the one who returned to thank Jesus been different from the other unthankful nine?

October 11 - The Pharisee And Publican - Luke 18:9-17.

1. Why should we not tell God how good we are?
2. How can we be justified before God?

October 18 - Delusions - Gen. 3:1-7, Luke 6:49, James 1:21-27.

1. When God said of the forbidden fruit, "Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die", what did He mean?
2. Why are we deceiving our own selves if we are hearers of the word only and not doers of the word?

October 25 - Seeking God - Deut. 4:29-31, Ps. 105:1-8, Isa. 55:1-8, Luke 11:9-10, Acts 17:26-31.

1. Why will we only find God if we seek Him with all our heart and with all our soul?
2. Explain the phrase, "We are the offspring of God."

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

'TIS BY FAITH

'Tis by the faith of joys to come
We walk thro' deserts dark as night:
Till we arrive at heav'n our home,
Faith is our guide, and faith our light.

The want of sight she well supplies;
She makes the pearly gates appear;
Far into distant worlds she pries,
And brings eternal glories near.

Cheerful we tread the desert thro',
While faith inspires a heavn'ly ray,
Tho' lions roar, and tempests blow,
And rocks and dangers fill the way.

So Abram, by divine command,
Left his own house to walk with God;
His faith beheld the promised land,
And cheered him on his toilsome road.

-Isaac Watts

DOUBT

One of the greatest robbers of a Christian's vitality is doubt. When doubt gets a foothold in the mind of the Christian it can paralyze him. Doubt can take many forms. Many doubts are illustrated in the New Testament. Four doubts stand out in the following situations.

Jesus' disciples were to cross the sea of Galilee, while he dismissed the crowd and spent time in private prayer. When He was ready to go to them, they were in the midst of a storm on the Sea. Although many of the disciples were fishermen by trade, they feared for their safety. They were further frightened when Jesus, approached them in the midst of the storm, walking on the water. Jesus' words calmed them. When Peter asked that he be allowed to walk to Him, Jesus bade him to come. Peter did fine walking on the water until he thought about his situation. Realizing he should not be able to do that and because of the continuing storm around him, he began to fear. Jesus rescued him. Not only did He calm Peter's personal storm but also the storm on the sea.

After Jesus' death on the cross, His body was laid in the newly hewn grave of Joseph. Despite the best efforts of Pilate and the religious leaders, that grave could not hold Him. He arose triumphant over death, hell and the grave. That evening He appeared to His disciples in the upper room. Thomas, perhaps still cowering from the display of religious, political, military and Satanic power the past few days, was absent. When the other disciples told him

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that Jesus had eaten with them, he would not believe them. He said he would only believe if he could put his finger in the nailprints in His hands and put his fist in the side of Jesus. One week later Jesus appeared again to the disciples gathered in that upper room. This time Thomas was present. He had only to see Jesus to believe.

After Pentecost, the new-found boldness of Peter had led him to speak and act in ways offensive to the religious leaders in Jerusalem. He was ready to obey God rather than men. His activities had landed him in prison. The authorities had him chained to four guards in the inner-most cell of the prison. Peter doubted if he would ever be free. In the middle of one night, he was awakened by an angel. The angel had to deal sternly with Peter to get him moving. The chains fell off his wrists and ankles. He wrapped his mantle about him and set out through the passageways of the prison. The prison doors opened as Peter approached them. Even the great iron gate at the entrance of the prison opened to allow Peter to walk into the street. Once he was outside the prison, the angel left him and urged him to go to his friends.

Several Christians were gathered at a home to pray for the safety and release of Peter. Peter made his way toward that home. He knocked on the gate of that house's courtyard. When those inside realized there was someone at the gate, the servant, Rhoda, was sent to answer the gate. As Peter continued to knock incessantly on the gate, she inquired who was there. When he told her, she was so shocked that instead of letting him in, she ran back into the house to announce to the others that Peter was there. They would not believe it and thought her crazy. Eventually Peter was let in and he told the story of his escape.

Peter's doubt in the midst of the storm on the sea illustrates the doubt that assails Christians in the midst of life's storms. When troubles arise Christians often begin to doubt that God is near to help them. Although they can not see His Hand clearly at such times, He is probably closer then than at any other time.

Thomas' doubt can be equated to the doubt of the physical, historical record of the life and ministry of Jesus. Those who doubt His atoning death on Calvary or His resurrection from the tomb of

death are expressing the same doubt as Thomas. It is hoped that they will be as open as Thomas, when he saw Jesus. Without believing in His physical, historic service, there is no way to be reborn through His blood.

Peter in prison was not awake to the ability of God to deliver him from his circumstances. The angel had to awake and continually urge him through his journey to freedom. Many Christians are sleepy, so they need constant urging toward their Spiritual goal.

The Christians praying for Peter's freedom were praying in doubt instead of in expectancy. They were unable to believe that the very thing they were supposedly praying for was being answered right then. How many prayers of Christians are uttered with more doubt than faith behind them? Perhaps this is why so many prayers get no higher than the ceiling of the room where they are uttered.

How much are we like these Christians of old? Will He find us faithful when He returns?

M.C.Cook

KENYA KNOTES

Progress Report

Greetings in Jesus' name!

We continue to stay very busy at the Mission in Kenya. Things move at a slow pace but that does not mean that many things are not happening at the same time.

Thursday night Bible studies continue to be well attended, approximately thirty neighborhood children and fifteen adults, with lots of good discussion. Wednesday women's meeting also continues. Several women have completed "crazy quilts". From the money raised from selling of hand work they are starting other projects including contributing to the building fund, buying songbooks, making quilts for sale and buying beans for resale. It seems that American style quilts might find a ready market here. Youth continue to meet on Saturday, playing soccer, volley ball, ping-pong and chess, then gathering for songs, prayer and Bible study. Of course every Sunday we meet for worship and Sunday school. The Makutano Church had been meeting at the Mission house because the soc-

cer stadium where they previously met had been occupied by government troops looking for cattle rustlers. Now the troops are gone and the church is able to meet again in a room at the soccer stadium.

Every other Friday the Kenyan leaders meet at our house for an all day seminar examining the polity book, Sunday schools, council meetings and so forth, so that they can teach and practice these things in their home church. We have been meeting since May and should complete most studies in September.

I have been keeping Brother James Musumba busy translating our written material into Swahili. He has even translated the Polity Book.

There has been eager acceptance of the Kenyan version of the Brethren Card known as Dunkard Brethren Beliefs. It is printed in English and Swahili on the same paper and answers most initial questions about who the Dunkard Brethren are and what Dunkard means. Most people think that Dunkard is some man's name.

Recently we have been hosting Swahili literacy classes for adults. We continue to distribute Bibles to those who have genuine need, desire and ability to read. It is still very difficult to find the Union Version Swahili which is translated from the King James. More readily available is the "Habori Njema" or Good News in Swahili.

There are always the daily requests for money, food, water, transportation, medical help, jobs, balls, sweets, biscuits, that wear you down as you try to discern between need, want, desire and greed.

Foremost on our minds are those things recently learned about Visas, work permits and registration of the church. I will spare you the frustrating details and simply report the findings. The government of Kenya only rarely approves the registration of a new church. To stay in Kenya longer than six months you need a work permit that is filed by a registered organization in Kenya. There are no such organizations in Kenya that know us well enough to file for us yet. So we are unable to obtain a work permit. That is why, that by the time you read this we will be on our way home to the United States.

I believe that in Kenya the ground is more fertile for the beliefs of the Dunkard Brethren than in America. Kenyans are not as cursed

with materialism, television and fashion as Americans. Many women cover their heads already. People dress more modestly, are more content with life and they are more open to God and the truth.

Membership classes are being held at both Makutano and Kaplamai. We anticipate baptism services soon at those churches. The churches at Ortum, Chepkornishuwo, Chesubet, Kaptilamwa and Kiptoi are struggling to maintain faithful teachers that practice and understand the doctrine and faithful members who are willing to change their lives because the Bible tells them so.

This is the state of the Dunkard Brethren in Kenya. What is the state of the Dunkard Brethren in America? Are there men willing to preach God's Word and not man's excuses? Are there eyes that can see and ears willing to hear? Are we willing to change our lives to build God's kingdom and strengthen the body of Christ? What things of this world, that will be smoke and ash, are we holding onto that God is calling us to let go? Have we forgiven others so God may forgive us? Are we content with our daily bread? Have we asked for deliverance from specific evil in our lives? Let us all carefully and prayerfully consider the state of the Dunkard Brethren in America and what priority Christ is, in our hearts. May we leave behind our desires and pride and make each next step and decision boldly in His will.

God's Peace,
Brother Tim Scofield

SYLVESTER, MY FRIEND AT THE WINDOW

He was the first person to meet us at the mission house, as we drove in with Pauls and Verlings. A cute little boy, about nine years old. A face reminding me of a chipmunk, with cheeks that stick out round and cute when he smiles. I did not know then the friendship that Sylvester and I would have.

At first he was just one of the many children that came to the mission house. I began to realize, not all the children would come every day, but Sylvester would. The children were always peeking in the windows, quite often at meal time. It seemed there could be no privacy. Often I would give them a slice of buttered bread. I could not bear to eat our meal in front of them. So many times it was tempting to put up curtains in the "big" room and dining room,

just to keep them from watching every move we made. But, we did not come all the way to Kenya to close people out of our lives.

If you went outside to do something you would find children all around you. They were very curious. They would slowly reach out and touch your arm, your toes, your hair. So I would reach out and touch them, as well.

Before long I had a desire to read Bible stories to the children. I was just beginning to learn Swahili so I needed to find someone, maybe a child, who could help me. I began to pray the Lord would send someone to help me. These poor children needed to know the Word of God.

I found a Bible story book at the Christian book store in Kitale. The book covered the whole bible, Old and New Testament, and had nice pictures. I could not wait to show it to the children. Next time the children came, I showed them the book. Big smiles! Sylvester reached for the book and began to read. "You can read English!" I had heard him speak a little English, but it had never crossed my mind that he was going to school and could read.

I was so excited. The Lord had answered my prayers. I bought several more books for the children. When I found out that some of the children spoke Pokot, I bought books written in Pokot plus books in Swahili as well. When Sylvester found the Pokot books he smiled real big. "These are Pokot!" "Are you Pokot?" "Yes!" He sat down to read to me. He so enjoys reading.

I made copies of Bible story pictures and verses for the children to color. The children would color and then pass around the story books and often Sylvester would read to them. We gave them a Swahili hymn book and they would sit on the back porch and sing.

It did not take them long to learn that we have Bible study on Thursday nights. It was not the Bible study they were so much interested in as the fry bread dusted with powdered sugar that went with the tea after the study. Sure enough, every Thursday night, half an hour before the study, the children would be outside the kitchen door. They never asked, they just sat in the grass watching me cook. So it would go until I opened the door and gave them each a piece of hot sweet fry bread. Then off they would run.

One Thursday night, when the children were waiting for their

"sweet", I opened the door and told them the sweets were for Bible study. Would they like to come to Bible study? If that's what it took to get a sweet, then that's what they would do. Six little boys joined the Bible study that night. From then on those boys were always here on Thursdays. The boys were always here early and Sylvester made sure they all stayed till the tea time. They would sing hymns from their book while they would wait for the members to gather for study. They would listen to the study, no running in and out. They were patient and waited until they were invited to take their tea and before they left, "thank yous" and "good-bys" were said.

Over the months word has spread. We now have thirty children at Thursday night study. I know they all come for the "sweets", but they hear the Word of God as well.

I know some of the children by name, but it is Sylvester who comes daily to my kitchen window. He knows when to come that he will be the only child there. "Terry, how are you today?" "Terry, I went to school today." "Give me sweet." "God bless you." I keep a jar of candy and gum balls on hand. He knows to come early on Saturday morning and he will get french toast or pancakes. For sure there are many things I will miss about Kenya, but one of the things I will miss the most is my little friend at the window.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Sister Terry Scofield

ANOTHER BAD ROAD

Boy, I thought we had a bad experience last time. We were on our way to Kaptalama a couple of weeks ago, and everything was going well until we came to a certain patch of road.

All the way up so far, we had had good, dry roads, then came the mudhole. Right in the middle of the road was a stretch of mud about thirty feet long and at least a foot deep. People had been throwing sticks, leaves, and other debris in to help them get through. Well, it worked for THEM but the next guy would be in a world of trouble. We happened to be the next guy. We were less than half way through when we became completely stuck.

We spent the next hour digging out with a Jembe (hoe), and all the while I was grumbling in my head. "I knew we should have stayed home today." I thought, I had not yet learned my lesson from the

last time, and doubt filled my mind.

An hour later after we finally got ourselves extracted from the mire, I realized how wrong I had been. We had several more hairy moments on our way to Kaptalama, but did not get stuck. Until the return trip.

We decided to take a different route home and avoid getting stuck again. Along the way we came to a very steep, very long hill. It was also pouring rain by this time. Once again we ended up pushing the van up a hill. At one point we had to push past a tractor that was stuck half on, half off the road. THAT was pretty tedious. Definitely something to remember. It was also dark during our adventure in the rain.

After we got past that, we went through Kiptoi, and came to the hill I mentioned last time. This time, we were going down the hill. No big deal, right? Wrong.

Everything was going okay, when we started an uncontrollable decent...in the wrong direction. Into the ditch, actually. Somehow we were not on our side, but not exactly on our wheels either. I had never been in a vehicle that rolled over before, but I was able to laugh my way through it. I had learned my lesson.

The van was miraculously unharmed. I firmly believe there were angels pushing right along side us mere mortals. If not for them, I do not think we could have made it. It was not "The Power of Positive Thinking", it was "The Power of Prayer."

In Him,

Brother William Scofield

KENYA CREATURES

Not too long ago my father and Bro. Jeremiah went to Eldoret to go to one of the banks there because all the banks here were on strike. On the way back they saw a dead giraffe lying on the side of the road. There were some Game Wardens there cutting it into pieces and giving it to whoever wanted any. So, of course, we got some. Sis. Debra cooked it that night for supper and it tasted a lot like chicken: ha! ha!. Actually, it tasted more like beef.

A while back my father and Bro. Jeremiah, Bro. James and his wife Emelda went to visit Kaplamai, where Peter preaches. The

people there say that a big cow-like beast comes out of the water and kills people. We can only conclude that this terrible beast is a hippo. They say while they are burying one person the beast comes and kills another.

Look for the unexpected, avoid the dangerous. "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope." Romans 8:20.

A brother in the Lord,
Brother Matthew Scofield

"PEAS, PEAS" AND THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

This last weekend we took a trip to Nairobi to take care of more mission business. On the way home we had an exciting experience.

We planned to stop by the side of the road to buy potatoes. They grow them somewhere between here and Nairobi so they are much cheaper, almost a third the price. We saw a row of women by the road, all selling peas and potatoes. That's the way they do, everyone sells the same thing.

So we stopped the van. No sooner had we done so, than five women came running up to the passenger window where Terry sat. They all had baskets of peas and were shouting, "Peas, peas! Mama peas! I was here first! Buy mine! Sister! Peas! Auntie! Peas! Terry sat there rather dumbstruck. We all laughed and held our ears.

Finally, she got out and told them she wanted potatoes. She would like to have bought some from all of them. "They look so sweet," she said. The rest of us just laughed!

I had to think. How do we present the Gospel? Those women knew they had to get busy. They could not just sit there or none would ever buy their goods. Do we sit around lazily, waiting for people to approach us? They might! But it is not half as likely! We see much evidence here that those churches that were here first (i.e., Catholic and so forth) have had the greatest influence. Where were we? Where are we now? Where are we going? Ask yourself, "Am I up running for the Lord?"

But consider the flip side. Do I "sell" Jesus? How is my presentation? Is it cut and dried, a repeating of the same old story? Is

Jesus alive in you?! If not, it will come through. You must be convinced that you have the Lord and you want all others to follow Him because He is worthy and it is in their best interest! We do not have to trick people into following Jesus. Just proclaim the truth and live and act the truth. "A city set on a hill (live and active) cannot be hid." So let us awake out of sleep and get busy for the Lord.

A fellow laborer,
Brother Jeremiah Johnson

A FUNERAL CELEBRATION

Last month I wrote about a wedding celebration. Now I want to tell you about a funeral that seemed like a celebration in many ways.

We heard about the death of Jackson's father. Jackson is a member of our church, but his family is a part of the Church of God. Jackson's father was fifty years old and just collapsed as he got to work one day. I suppose he had a heart attack.

The funeral was on Sunday at 11:00 A.M. We picked up passengers then traveled one and a fourth hours to the funeral. It had just begun as we got there. First we viewed the body. It was in a small casket set up on a bed in a tin lean-to built on to the mud hut home. We sang a hymn as we stood around the body. Then we went to find seats among the three hundred or so present. A few "tents" were set up to shade everyone. It was a cloudy day that turned partly sunny before the funeral was over.

After some singing, it was testimony time. The widow spoke first, then each of their eight children, ranging in age from twenty or so to one and a half years. Then the deceased's brothers and sisters, then the widow's brothers, sisters and parents spoke. After that some aunts and uncles on each side, some friends, the church leaders, and each visiting church leader had a part. Different groups sang and the Church of God had an older man speak for a while. I guess this was the sermon. We had prayer many times. Each testimony lasted approximately five minutes. The Church of God leader kept everything moving. One interesting fact: everything was spoken in Swahili or Luya. We understood nothing. It was interesting, just watching the speakers and the emotion involved. Actually, few tears were shed. The service lasted until 3:30 P.M.

The grave was dug earlier and had filled nearly half full of water because of rain. Some guys spent a lot of time scooping water from the hole during the service. At the close of the service many people gave offerings of money to the widow. Pall bearers came out with the casket as a procession including the widow and children started slowly for the grave. An appointed group sang as all this was happening. The singing was beautiful! When the two groups met they paraded around the yard in a half circle, then back again to the grave. The singing stopped for a short reading and prayer, then resumed as the casket was lowered into the grave. They covered the casket with leaves, then branches. A minister spoke more words and dropped the first clods of dirt into the hole. The men took turns with shovels and hoes covering the casket, as the choir sang and we all stood watching. When the hole was partly filled they placed heavy branches in each corner of the hole. Some of the men's shirts were drenched as they faithfully performed this one last act of love for their brother and friend. When the grave was mounded up, many people stepped up to place a handful of wild flowers in the dirt. The women sang as they paraded the widow back to her home. It really did seem like a joyous occasion! Although we mourn for all these children who have lost their daddy, and for the young widow, (thirty-five years old) we feel peace and joy, knowing this Kenyan has gone to Heaven. We pray all Kenyans could have this sort of close to their life, prepared to meet their Maker.

Are you ready? If you are, your funeral can be a celebration, too.

God bless each one,
Sister Debra Johnson

1998 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from September 1998 Issue

TUESDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Bro. William Heisey. Acts 5:17-42. The Apostles were jailed at that time. An angel opened the doors of the prison. The Apostles were let out. They went to the Temple and began to teach willingly.

God was with them. The Apostles were willing to suffer and keep preaching for Christ and to obey God.

TUESDAY A.M.

Bro. Jeremiah Johnson opened. Luke 17:1-10. Forgive even seven times if necessary. Look for things that need to be done and be a willing worker. As Christians, do we use the energy given to us? Are you an encourager. Be a willing helper with joy. Trust the Lord as your Savior and live true to Him. There are blessings in being able to serve the Lord. A faithful servant does what he is asked to do.

Bible Study. Bro. Phil Franklin. Humble Servants. Philippians 2:1-6.

Bro. Fred Johnson. Romans 7:18-25. We can change our clothes. We can change our nature. Join our church. It should make a difference. Unless we accept Jesus and His teachings, what are we? A sinful nature is hard to deal with. The Apostle Paul turned to God when he needed help with his difficulties. Changing the outside does not change a person. What is in the heart will come out. The real you without a clean heart will show from the outside. Except a person be born again he cannot see God. Nicodemus said, "I cannot be born again." Our heart can be cleansed through the blood of Christ. We need that new birth through Christ. Many will not accept that new birth of Christ and follow Him and His teachings. We have the choice to choose that new life with Jesus and His teachings.

Bro. Mark Cordrey closed. The Apostle Paul was real in his life. He was not proud. He wanted to please the Heavenly Father. He was willing to change his life to please God. Ask God to change you and make in you a new heart.

TUESDAY P.M.

Missionary Program. Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson opened. I Thess. 1. Is God really alive? We know He lives because He is in our heart. The love of God is alive.

Bro. Dave Snyder. I Thess. 8. Two thousand years ago Christ went to the cross for our sins. It did not end there. He was placed in the grave and later arose. He is now in Heaven with our Heav-

only Father. There are many people without Christ in this world. I Thess. 4:10-11. Think about what our mission is. It is to share Christ with an individual who knows nothing about Him. Satan tries to destroy the church. Love your neighbor, tell them about Christ. Quench not the Spirit. The Apostle Paul said, "All have sinned and come short in the sight of God." Be kind, tender hearted, forgiving one another. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. God tells us how to face decisions. There is always something for us to do in the mission field. If we think we cannot help, in the mission field, to win some lost soul, then the devil is deceiving us.

Bro. David Rice closed. Our home front can be an advantage to us to teach Jesus to a lost soul.

TUESDAY EVENING

Bro. Paul Stump opened. Luke 19:1-10. The son of man came to seek that which was lost. We all have a mission. Let our light shine to them round about us. We are the only Bible some people read.

Bro. Robert Carpenter. Missionary Message. I Cor. 3:4-6. God gives the increase for mission work. Sow the seed of God's Holy Word wherever we go. A missionary must have a very pleasant attitude and preach the Word of God. It's our job to sow the seed round about us to people that do not know anything about the Holy Bible.

Bro. Allen Trujillo from the Torreon Navajo Mission spoke to us. I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. I learned a lot about the Bible at Torreon Mission in New Mexico. Bro. Newton Jamison asked me to join our church. May 16, 1997, I became a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church. I am very thankful for the Torreon Mission.

WEDNESDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Bro. Merle Sweitzer. James 1:1-4. There are many temptations before us every day. Our mind begins to think Satan is there to deceive us. Patience grows in strong Christians. We must yield our lives to Christ. We do not want to become spiritually blind. We need to search our heart. By faith we can conquer all temptation that comes to us.

Sister Alice Heisey

BEHIND BARS

This article is written about those in prison, who are trying with God's help to change their lives.

As we slowly drive into the prison, located in central Ohio, and hunt the area we are assigned to, I wonder what we will hear and see and how will the next two days go. The prison is huge with many buildings to house the 7,000 men who live here.

We, a group of volunteers, are meeting a gospel group to help hold a two day seminar here for these men. The only possessions we are allowed to carry into the prison are our Bibles. No keys, no billfolds, no purses, no nothing. Just our Bibles.

We help the Gospel Group as they carry their equipment in. It is checked inch by inch as we pass through the metal detectors. We sign the papers we need to receive our passes that must be attached to us at all times. The prison chaplain is here to greet us. We talk and have prayer with him before entering the prison yards.

As we start our long walk to the chapel the prison doors open before us and lock shut behind us with loud clicks. I wince at each loud click, for each one makes me feel trapped. It reminds me that there is no turning back for now. I ask God to please take my hand and walk beside me these next two days.

The prison yards are so grim, very bleak, with not much color or grass anywhere. There are huge cement block buildings with bars on every window in sight. Now we are on the inside of the prison looking out. All around us are the coiled, shiny, razor-sharp, wires that glisten brightly in the sun and are beautiful in their own design. In this area, we are asked to walk in twos and let no prisoners among us. Walking past the buildings, smelling the prison meals being prepared and hearing the men's voices all around us as they shout and laugh and curse and call to each other, I wonder, am I in another world?

Now, we are in the section where the men live. As we walk past room after room of barred windows the men stare at us and I at them. My heart slowly breaks at all these black and white hands that are clutching the prison bars. All these black and white hands haunt me. Although these men have committed serious crimes, I

want to gently peel those hands away. I, somehow, want to help these men see that life does not have to be lived in this fashion. Life does not have to be crime and sin and sorrow. It can be good and godly and clean if we choose to make it that way, despite our problems and our circumstances.

I am the only woman in this group of volunteers, yet I feel no fear. The prisoners have a silent code among themselves that if someone would harm a woman, a child, a blind person or a cripple, the others would come down hard on them. These men do not want longer sentences. As we finish our long walk I feel an overwhelming despair. It wants to drag me down with it.

The sun shines warmly on our backs and the sky is so blue. Finally, we arrive at the chapel, which feels like a warm welcome haven in this other world. We hurry to set up the room for our two day seminar with these men.

Sadly, the chaplain tells us that out of seven thousand men, only one hundred or so have signed up. These are all that are truly interested, with God's help, in trying to change their ways and improve their lives while they are here. The chaplain tells us that we will be sharing the room with men who have committed every crime possible.

I watch the men as they walk in, both black and white. Most are very strong and a few carry scars. I am struck by their faces, for there are no smiles, just tense faces and empty eyes. Some seem curious and some seem shy. Some turn around and walk right back out. I wonder is it because of this Jesus stuff we want to share with them? Then I see something else. A blind man and a crippled man are very carefully being helped into the room and to their chairs by other prisoners, assigned to them. Before the program starts the men share the cookies and drink they have made for us. It's a beautiful Friday night as we spend the next two hours singing, worshipping and praying to God together. It breaks my heart to see the tears running down all these black and white cheeks. I hope and pray that God is touching all of these touched hearts and lives here in this room tonight and that His Spirit is guiding these men.

We are asked to give a testimony and I know clearly what my words will be as I stand and take the mike. I tell them that it's my

privilege to spend these next two days with them. I tell them that we are here in all shapes, all sizes, all colors, and all worshipping the same God. God tells us in His Word that if we are willing to learn of His truth, then His truth shall set us free, no matter where we are, or the condition we are in. It makes me smile to hear the yells of "Yeah, Sister" as I pass the mike on.

Now some of the tension is draining away. There is some yelling and clapping and stomping and a few smiles and a few smiles without teeth. I want to cry as the blind one takes his harmonica and plays a beautiful song for us that comes from his heart. I want to shake these men and beg them to use their time well in here and leave a different man than the man that walked in here.

When it's time to leave, we are so drained as we walk back through the now quiet prison yard, back through the gates and the clicking locks and out the door. I thank God again that I am able to do and live and move about as I please in this world where I live, called freedom.

Saturday morning is bright and clear as we make our way back to the chapel for our all day seminar. Today is different, for today we are able to sit with the prisoners at small tables around the room. At our table there are five black men and one Mexican. They eye us cautiously and I them, for the one across the table from me tells me that he weighs four hundred pounds and is six feet four inches in height. I have never seen such a big, muscular man. Thus, our seminar begins.

Today we are going to talk about three subjects. Our first subject is about being a man of God. The second is about anger and the third about men's sexuality. Anger and men's sexuality are the two things that put a lot of men into prison. The Gospel Group leader is also a minister and he talks on the first subject, then leaves forty-five minutes or so for us to have group discussion with the men. We talk, we laugh, we share. As we sit with their black elbows touching mine, I wonder just what are these men's crimes. As we talk, I realize the desperate, desperate need within these men to reach out and ask for help. The things they talk about just breaks my heart.

As we discuss "Being a man of God" we share how God gives

each one a free will to make choices in this life. Many times we bury that free will. Instead of choosing what is good and right for us, we do what we want. It seems when we do what we want, we sometimes make bad choices. Then we have to deal with the results of our bad choices, which is what all prisoners are doing right now.

Next we talk about anger. The huge man across from me tells me when he gets angry, he uses his size to throw his weight around. I look him straight in the eyes and tell him when I get angry, I use my size to throw my weight around also. Now, I am a very tiny person, so of course, he thinks this is very funny. So the day goes.

The Mexican, on my right, clearly hates his woman. I wonder did he harm her? The man on my left has only two fingers left on each hand but he knows God's Word through and through. He has a love and knowledge for the Lord that puts me to shame. This love comes out in his voice and his words and his eyes shine with it.

These men on the whole are sorry for their crimes. They yearn for their families. They are sad for their wasted years, and are so eager to learn and soak up God's Words. The day goes so fast. I am sad to leave these men, whom I have gotten to know in a small way. They have been so appreciative and thankful that we would even take time to spend our day with them.

As we close in prayer, my heart is torn as I listen to the sobbing of the man behind me as he asks God to please forgive him for the hatred he has in his heart for the parents who abused him. My heart is torn again as I listen to another ask God to please forgive him for the crimes he has committed. My heart is torn again as I listen to another as he asks God to please forgive him for the mess his marriage is in and that his wife and children would someday receive him back as their husband and father.

These men have committed serious crimes for which they are locked up like animals, and rightly so. Because of their decision to dedicate their lives to the Lord, and reach out for help, they are facing tough lives in here from the other prisoners, who daily test their faith and ridicule them for their decision. Even so, these few men are trying to change their lives, to become men of God, and to repair the damage done to their families because of their crimes,

despite it all.

As we say good-bye it humbles me to realize I am no better than these men, though they are behind bars and I am not. We are all born into sin. We all have sins to overcome. They have their sins and I have mine. It humbles me as I realize once again that God loves us so much and that He has a special path for each of us to find and walk. It humbles me as I realize once again that God loves us all the same, not one more than another, not white more than black, and no matter where we are, or the condition we are in, that He will be there if we will only choose to call on Him.

As we hug good-bye, I wish them God's love, God's peace, and His blessings as they struggle to live with, to deal with, and overcome the crimes they have committed, and as they struggle to become men of God, despite it all.

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THINGS INCREDIBLE

Acts 26:8, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?"

Paul was speaking before Agrippa, who was expert in customs and questions which were among the Jews, verse 3, and believed the prophets, verse 27.

The dictionary defines incredible as unbelievable, but my thought is that they may still be true.

Gen. 2:1-7 tells us that God created all things, including man, into whose nostrils He breathed the breath of life and man became a living soul.

Gen. 6:1-7 tells us that because of the wickedness of man, that God purposed to destroy that which He had created. Gen. 6:8, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

Gen. 8:21-9:17 declares God's covenant with Noah and his seed.

Beginning in chapter 12 of Genesis, God makes a covenant with Abraham. Perhaps the greatest promise to Abraham is found

in Gen. 22:18, "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." Paul explains in Gal. 3:16, "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."

The children of Israel delivered from famine through Joseph. Gen. 50:20, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

The children of Israel were delivered from the bondage of the Egyptians through Moses. Ex. 14:30, "Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore."

God made a covenant with the children of Israel. Deut. 4:7-13, "For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for: And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness. And the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire; ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone."

Please read the contrast between the covenant made with Abraham, and the covenant made with Israel, found in Galatians chapters 3 and 4.

The fire from God to show his acceptance. Ex. 13:22, 14:19-20,

Lev. 9:24, II Chron. 21:26. To show His vengeance, Lev. 10:1-2, Gen. 19:24, II Kings 1:10, Rev. 20:9.

That Christ was born of a virgin and was called Emmanuel, God with us. Matt. 1:18-25.

That Christ laid down his life for us, Matt. 27:50, Mark 15:37, Luke 23:46 and John 19:30.

That Christ arose from the dead, Matt. 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20 and I Cor. 15:20.

That Christ cleanses and gives life to sinners, I Cor. 6:11-14, Eph 2:1-6, Phil 3:8-11, Col. 1:21-23, I Tim. 1:12-15, II Tim. 2:11-12, 4:8, II Pet. 1:1-4 and John 5:11-13.

All these things may seem incredible to the unbeliever, but they are most surely believed among us. Luke 1:1.

FOLLOW ME

"Take up your cross and follow Me,
Wherever I may lead,
Your back will ache, your feet grow tired,
And yes, your heart will bleed.
But we shall walk together,
And I will share your lot,
For I am always with you,
And will forget you not."

"Take up your cross and follow Me,
And I will fill your days
With joy that only I can give,
In many precious ways.
So learn to know Me better,
For there are miles to go,
And rest your head upon My heart,
For I have loved you so."

"The light grows dim, the dusk descends,
The sunlight turns to shade,
I give My angels charge of you,
So do not be afraid.
But trust in Me and do not grieve
For what has come and gone,
I will provide for all your needs,
Because you are my own."

"My yoke is sweet, My burden light,
No matter where you roam,
Remember earth will pass away,
But heaven is your home.
How very brief a time man walks
Upon this earthly sod,
So love Me as I first loved you
And know that I am God.

-Grace E. Easley

May God bless you all.

Brother William Carpenter

PERSEVERANCE

I Chronicles 16:11, "Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually."

Oh! The trouble we would avoid if only we would follow this advice! How we must continue upward on this journey of life. Hosea 12:6 says, "Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment and wait on thy God continually." We must persevere.

As Christians, we represent Christ our Saviour. How do we do that? Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." We love Him because He first loved us by dying for us to pay the penalty for our sins. If we truly believe that Christ saved us; if we have

been converted from sin and the error of our ways; if we are walking in newness of life by following the scriptures and the prompting of the Holy Ghost, then we are followers of Christ and we must persevere.

John 8:31, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" In order to continue in something, you must have been established in that thing. Begin in the Word and continue in it. Philippians 4:1 says, "Stand fast in the Lord." II Timothy 2:1 is significant. It says, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." What are we to be strong in? THE GRACE that is in Christ: not our own righteousness or holiness, but Christ's.

A cult will tell you to do as they do and you cannot go wrong. An apostate group will say, "Follow our rules and you are assured a place in Heaven." Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matthew 11:29)

Colossians 2:7 tells us to be "rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith." Not rooted and built up in a creed or a belief system, but in the person of Jesus Christ, our Blessed Saviour. Praise His Holy Name!

The Brethren use the New Testament for their creed. The title page in my Bible says, "The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." This Word is the final word of Christ: the testimony of the Son of God while here upon earth and after He returned to Heaven. Hear Him. Believe and be saved.

Jesus was nailed upon a cross and His disciples scattered. However, when the Holy Ghost came among them, strength prevailed. Jesus told them in John 20:22, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost..." Acts 1:8 says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." We need the Holy Ghost to help us to persevere. We do not know what we will have to face in these coming days. We need to be freed from the power of this world and sin. We need to embrace the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to embrace the Word of God (and do not be fooled by the modern versions - they lead to confusion).

We need to get rid of the devilish distractions of this world. Do

not think for a minute that you cannot be deceived by the radio or the television. These things deceived me in the late 1960's and they can do it to my children today. Hold fast. Fight the forces of evil. Stand against the wiles of the devil. We know what they are. We are tantalized by them. We must decide whom we love more, the world or our Lord. Whom will we follow?

Have we received the Holy Ghost since we believed? There is no other way to seek the face of the Lord continually but by the Holy Ghost.

Do not be afraid to seek the face of the Lord. You will be a better person for it. People will see you and want what you have. They will know there is something different about you. They will see that you have been set free from the bonds of sin. May God grant to you the desire to seek Him continually.

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ONE THING HAVE I DESIRED OF THE LORD

Psalm 27:4, "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple."

There are many things that individuals desire of the Lord. Some desire physical healing. Others desire that God would intervene in family difficulties. Some even desire that God would supply them with the riches of this world. None of these desires are wrong if the desire is willingly submitted to God's perfect will for our lives.

In essence we believe that David, the given author of this Psalm, was saying that above all else there was one thing that he desired of the Lord. The desire of David's heart should also be the desire of every born again child of God. We wish the leading of the Holy Spirit as we attempt to analyze this thing that David desired of the Lord.

First of all, David realized that his human frailty along with the inherited adamic nature would not allow him to accomplish the de-

sire of his heart in its fullness. That is why he said, "that will I seek after". We should also realize and acknowledge our human lack of ability to fully accomplish the things we are about to expound upon. If we seek to accomplish these things without the aid of the Holy Spirit we will be complete failures.

David's sincere desire was "that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life." We believe this can be translated for our day to state that the thing we desire of the Lord is that we may be a part of a Bible believing fellowship. This is certainly a worthy desire and is to be placed very high on our list of priorities, if not first. What does it mean to be a part of a Bible believing fellowship?

Included in David's desire of the Lord was "to behold the beauty of the LORD." A possible translation of the word "beauty" from the Hebrew is the word "suitableness" which means being appropriate. In John 4:24 Jesus instructed us, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth." The basis of our worship must be the truths found on the pages of God's Holy Word. Although we believe that emotion can be a valid part of a worship experience, to worship God in spirit goes far beyond this. In Romans 8:16 we read, "the Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." A Bible believing fellowship is made up of individuals who are led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will lead into the truths of Holy Scripture. To be a true Bible believing fellowship all the truths of God's Holy Word that describe who God is and all His attributes must be accepted without reservation. When the Bible says that God is the divine Creator who created the world and all that is therein in six literal days we must accept this. We must not try to explain it with the wisdom of man, as it is found in so called scientific knowledge. The miracles in both the Old and The New Testament must be accepted for what they are. They are God intervening in the natural actions and needs of man and the universe. What are generally referred to as the cardinal truths of Holy Scripture must be accepted without doubt or question. This includes such things as the virgin birth of Christ and His literal resurrection. It also includes a belief in the Holy Trinity.

David's last portion of his desire of the LORD was, "and to inquire in his temple." Our desire should be to learn what God's desire and commands are for our lives. This is also a part of a true

Bible believing fellowship. While we must accept the entire Bible as the inspired Word of God, we can rightly be described as a New Testament fellowship. Unfortunately, there are many fellowships who call themselves Bible believing while a great amount of time is spent explaining why the Bible does not mean what it says or that portions were only for certain times or places. The Scriptural head covering has come under attack in recent times more than we have ever heard it before. But all the so called wisdom and excuses of man to explain away the Scriptural truth will not change the Word of God nor God's mind concerning this truth, He has revealed in His Word through the Apostle Paul.

One of the more controversial issues concerning Bible believing fellowships is church tradition. The fact is that all fellowships, whether they acknowledge it or not, are following some type of church tradition. The bottom line is whether or not the church tradition is in line with Bible truths and guidelines. We are convinced that most of our Brethren traditions, which are often shared with other plain groups, enhance rather than negate the truths of Holy Scripture. They should never be put on the same level as Bible truth as clearly revealed in God's Holy Word but should be embraced as aids to help keep us faithful.

May we be able to say, One thing have I desired of the Lord, to live a life that is in accord with His Holy Word and to be a part of His people.

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WISHING

Do you wish the world were better?

Let me tell you what to do.

Set a watch upon your actions,

Keep them always straight and true.

Rid your mind of selfish motives,

Let your thoughts be clean and high.

You can make a little Eden
Of the sphere you occupy.

Do you wish the world were wiser?
Well, suppose you make a start,
By accumulating wisdom
In the scrapbook of your heart;
Do not waste one page on folly;
Live to learn, and learn to live.
If you want to give men knowledge
You must get it, ere you give.

Do you wish the world were happy?
Then remember day by day
Just to scatter seeds of kindness
As you pass along the way,
For the pleasures of the many
May be traced to one.
As the hand that plants an acorn
Shelters armies from the sun.
-Selected

MEETING NOTICES

September 28-October 4 - Revival Meeting, Walnut Grove, Maryland

October 2-11 - Revival Meeting, West Fulton, Ohio

October 11 - Harvest Meeting, West Fulton, Ohio

October 4-11 - Revival Meeting, Pleasant Home, California

October 11-18 - Revival Meeting, Lititz, Pennsylvania

October 21-25 - Revival Meeting, Dayton, Virginia

November 1-8 - Revival Meeting, Mohlers, Mechanicsburg, Penn-

sylvania

LOVEFEAST NOTICES

October 4 - Walnut Grove, Maryland

October 24 - Dayton, Virginia

October 24 - Englewood, Ohio

October 25 - Bethel, Pennsylvania

October 31 - Pleasant Ridge, Ohio

November 7 - Pleasant Home, California

November 8 - Lititz, Pennsylvania

November 8 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

NEWS ITEMS

REMINDER

Those wishing to make donations to the Publication Board, please remember to make them out to Bro. Fred Pifer, Treasurer, but sent to Bro. Ron Marks, Secretary, 1813 N. 136th Ave., Hart, MI 49420.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans a Lovefeast service October 31, 1998. All are welcome to come and share these services with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation is having a Lovefeast service, November 7, 1998.

We are happy that Bro. Paul Stump plans to be with us, at that time, the Lord willing. Come and enjoy these blessings with us.

Sister Blanche Newman, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation had a week of Revival from August 9 through 16. Elder David Skiles was our Evangelist.

Although no new members were added, Bro. David gave us

much to think about. We are glad Sister Mildred came also.

Our Harvest Meeting is planned for November 15 with Bro. David Rice as speaker. Everyone is invited to this Meeting and to all our services!

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

THANK YOU

Thank you so very much for your prayers and telephone calls of love and concern for our little daughter, Triana. Your cards, gifts and visits, too, were a special blessing to both her and her family.

We feel Triana's complete recovery was because of earnest prayers on her behalf.

Thank you all and Praise God for His miracle of perfect healing. God bless you.

Brother David and Sister Neide Aungst

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1998

November 1 - Israel's Response - Joshua 24:16-27.

1. Why did Joshua say to the people, "Ye cannot serve the Lord"?
2. Why did Joshua set up a great stone under the oak tree?

November 8 - Reflections On Israel's Love For God - Joshua 24:28-33.

1. How would these verses read if they were written about our service to the Lord, as an individual, as a congregation, as the general Brotherhood?
2. Explain the importance of having leaders who know "all the works of the Lord," which he has done for us.

November 15 - God Hath Requited Me - Judges 1:1-20.

1. Explain how God will requite us for our life spent here upon earth.
2. Why did the Lord deliver the land into the hand of Simeon and Judah?

November 22 - THANKSGIVING - Psalm 111:1-10.

1. How is praise a natural part of Thanksgiving?
2. How does our fear of the Lord affect our giving of thanks?

November 29 - Mission Not Accomplished - Judges 1:21-36.

1. Why did the children of Benjamin not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem?
2. Why did Israel put the Canaanites to tribute instead of utterly driving them out?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1998

November 1 - Thoughtfulness - Deut. 32:1-5, Jos. 1:8-9, Hag. 1:4-7, Ps. 1:1-6, I Tim. 4:15-16.

1. What should our thoughts be focused upon?
2. Why is it so important for us to consider our ways?

November 8 - Honor of Parents - Eph. 6:1-3, Ex. 20:12, Pr. 1:8, Luke 2:51, John 19:26-27.

1. What is the praise in "The First Commandment with Promise"?
2. What is the importance of obedience in honoring our parents?

November 15 - Our Friendships - I Sam. 20:1-42.

1. What was the bond between Jonathan and David?
2. Why was Jonathan so loyal to David even while realizing David would be king instead of him?

November 22 - THANKSGIVING - Ps. 92:1-2, I Chr. 16:8-12, Eph. 5:19-20, Ph. 4:6-17.

1. How often should we give thanks?
2. For what should we be thankful?

November 29 - Our Duty - Romans 12:1-21.

1. What is it that God considers our "reasonable service"?
2. How is it possible to "overcome evil with good"?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

OH, WHERE ARE THE REAPERS?

Oh, where are the reapers that garner in
The sheaves of the good from the fields of sin?
With sickles of truth must the work be done,
And no one may rest till the "harvest home."

Go out in the byways and search them all;
The wheat may be there, tho' the weeds are tall;
Then search in the highway, and pass none by
But gather from all for the home on high.

The fields are all rip'ning, and far and wide
The world now is waiting the harvest tide;
But reapers are few, and the work is great,
And much will be lost should the harvest wait.

So come with your sickles, ye sons of men,
And gather together the golden grain;
Toil on till the Lord of the harvest come,
Then share ye his joy in the "harvest home."

-Eben E. Rexford

GIVING THANKS

As a day for the giving of thanks has been established in this country, Christians should be at the forefront of those who express their thanks. Admittedly, the day has become a day of feasting and football rather than of Spiritual reflection. Although the world does not appreciate the blessings that have been showered upon the just and the unjust, Christians must be mindful of all that they have received.

Throughout Bible history, many events happened that caused the people of God to offer thanks. Sometimes it was in response to some great, miraculous event. At other times it was in response to some continuing series of events. Unfortunately, many times they were not as ready to give thanks as they should have been. That has been the usual way of mankind.

As Joshua moved toward the close of his life and labors as the leader of the Children of Israel, he gathered the leaders to Shechem. There he recounted their history back to the days of Abraham. He recounted how God had intervened in their affairs over the years. He had led Abraham throughout his journeys. He had arranged marriages for Isaac and Jacob with descendants of Abraham's brother Nahor. He had preserved Jacob's family through Joseph's rise to power in Egypt. He had called Moses and Aaron to lead the Israelites out of Egypt when their bondage had become too burdensome. He had destroyed the pursuing army of Pharaoh. He

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had led them throughout the often aimless wandering in the wilderness. He had brought them to the other side of Jordan where they had fought and defeated the Amorites and had taken their land for their own. He had directed their conquest of the Promised Land. They had overrun and divided it amongst their tribes.

After recounting how they had received houses, vineyards, orchards, fields and cities that they had not built, Joshua challenged them to commit themselves to serving the God who had given them all these benefits. He challenged them to serve any god that been able to do for them what God had already done for them. They would be unable to find any such god, but they would try, from time to time. Although they might seek other gods to worship, Joshua declared that he would only serve the Lord God of Heaven.

Joshua was a great leader of his people. His greatness was shown in his dependence upon God. He knew that all had been given to them by God. God had led through the centuries and the decades to bring about their establishment in the Promised Land

If Joshua sought commitment because of the Physical blessings that God had given him and his people, it would seem, that of all people Christians should be the most thankful. Christians have much more to be thankful for than even the Children of Israel. They have received more from the hand of God than even God's chosen people of the Old Testament.

Christians have received Spiritual blessings that far surpass the physical and worldly blessings received by Israel. Christians have been the recipients of God's special love gift, His Son. They have received more than a bountiful land, they have received title to Heavenly mansions. They have received more than the voice of the prophets crying in the wilderness; they have received the direction of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The children of Israel had been freed from the bondage of Egypt; Christians have been freed from the bondage of Satan and sin. Christians have been given many benefits that were unavailable to the them, because Jesus had not yet come to deliver them from Satan.

If Joshua expected a commitment from the children of Israel following his account of all that they had received, then how much more thankfulness and commitment should be forthcoming from

Christians? While Thanksgiving provides a special time each year to ponder more fully on the received blessings, the Christian should be mindful of these blessings every day. Thanksgiving should not be limited to mere words, for words can be hollow and unfeeling. Beyond words, actions can more accurately express true feelings. Hearts that are truly thankful will express that thanksgiving through commitment to God. This will show through attitudes and actions not only toward God but toward others as well.

Thanksgiving should be more than turkey, cranberries, a day off, sports and self-indulgence. It should be a time of reflection upon the blessings that God has provided for Christians. It is a time to reflect upon not only physical blessings but also Spiritual blessings. Make Thanksgiving a time of commitment. Offer yourself as a servant of God because He has purchased you at a great price.

How will you spend Thanksgiving? Will it be a day of feasting and partying, or a day of commitment?

M.C.Cook

WISDOM AND THE WORLD'S TECHNOLOGY

The young couple sat quietly waiting. What else was there to do? Although they looked just like any other couple on the outside, things were different on the inside. As they waited for their baby daughter to return from open heart surgery, their hearts were aching with a peculiar combination of complete trust in God and anxious doubts. Would she survive? Later, they were filled with joy and thanksgiving as they held their baby girl again, whose heart was now working as it should.

Another young couple sat, nervous and uncertain. They were anxious for this to all be over. Something about it did not feel right. Later, they hurried back to everyday life, eager to forget the feel of tiny feet telling them hello, and the sound of a tiny heart beating steadily. Eager to forget the life that was no more.

Life and death. Two extremes that clearly demonstrate the far-reaching results of today's technology. Life saved through the use of the most sophisticated equipment available. Death produced

through the use of other high-tech equipment.

Christians sometimes accept without question the world's technology, because of a mind set that says *God* has given man the wisdom to invent all that he has invented. *Is* today's technology the result of God's wisdom given to man? We need to go back to God's Word as our foundation, so we can reveal the truth or error in the thoughts of man.

In an article titled "Have You Been 'Secularized'?", by creation scientist, Ken Ham, he says, "When Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he adopted a "secular" worldview. Thus, he put his own thinking, based on 'outside' opinion, to be in authority over the clear words of God. *All* of us have inherited an Adamic nature that rebels against the Christian worldview. Therefore, we will automatically absorb secular thinking unless we work hard to avoid such contamination." He goes on to say, "We tend to trust man to determine truth devoid of the foundation of God's Word. But we've forgotten a *change* that has affected every human being. The Bible teaches in Jeremiah 17:9 that 'The heart is deceitful above all.' Man's nature is to be *against* God—we are all humanists at heart. This is why we need to kneel in submission to the One who is infinite in knowledge, and let Him tell us the answers—found in the Bible—we need to build into our whole thinking."

Before going any further, I want to mention that we are not against using technology. We own and use many modern conveniences, including a computer, and take advantage of medical care when necessary. Our purpose in writing is not to condemn technology, but rather to open our minds to the truth, and awaken us to the need for Godly wisdom while living in today's world.

We realize the probability of today's technology being invented by Christians as well as non-Christians. Yet because of the impossibility of always knowing the person behind the invention, and because the majority of the world's population are not Christians, we intend to look at today's technology as coming from today's 'world', those who are not Christians. Even if something has been invented by a Christian, we are not excused from using God's Word and wisdom as we decide to accept or reject that particular item into our lives.

BEGINNING OF WISDOM

Beginning at the beginning, we see that God created man in His image. This means he was created with a brain of awesome capabilities; creativity and imagination; and purity of thought and intent. Then Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said they had now become "as one of us, to know good and evil." Up to that time, their wisdom had been a pure, Godly wisdom. Now they also knew evil. Now they needed to make choices between doing good and doing evil. The knowledge they had would not automatically result in them doing good. Right from the time of the fall, man's wisdom was no longer pure, but tainted with evil. **(Eccl. 7:29) "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."**

Going to Solomon's writings, we find much information on wisdom. One of his basic statements is found in Proverbs 1:7, where he says that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." True knowledge and wisdom only come with the fear of the Lord. Job 28:28 says, "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." Considering that the majority of the people in the world do not live in the fear of the Lord, we cannot count the world's knowledge and attainments in technology as true wisdom. **(Prov. 28:5) "Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things."** **(Prov. 9:10) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."**

Rather than fearing God, we find instead that man, "...when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." (Rom. 1:21-22) There we are plainly told that men without God become fools. They refuse to listen to His words and reject His law. **(Jer. 8:9) "The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?"**

In I Cor. 3:18-21, Paul tells us God's opinion of the world's wisdom. "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth

to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the *wisdom of this world is foolishness with God*. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours." Because men's minds without God are corrupt, then we can assume that the inventions of those minds may also be corrupt. We can not take the world's technology as an unqualified gift from God when it's been handed to us from the minds of the world. **(I Cor. 1:19-20) "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"**

Finally, there are two more important things to keep in mind when considering the world's wisdom. First, God says that He is not the author of confusion. There is no doubt about the confusion of the world today. Take the medical field, for example. Research after research is being done to find answers to medical problems. Some research completely contradicts what is found in other research. We can read completely opposing ideas as to what is best for our health. Sometimes the media seems nothing but confusion, with its different reports of this and that; it's barrage of audio and visual information. There is lots of confusion!

Secondly, God tells us that Satan is the prince of this world. If God has given this world to Satan as his kingdom, just how much Godly wisdom should we expect to find from the world?

Scripture does tell us that God gives wisdom to specific people on earth, believers or non-believers, to fulfill His purposes. In the following verses, wisdom is speaking of herself. She says: (Prov. 8:15-16) "By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth." Because God is speaking here of a certain group of people, those whom He has set up as rulers, these verses cannot be applied to men in general.

As a comparison with the world's wisdom, the following verse tells us what true wisdom is: (James 3:17) "But the wisdom that is from above is first *pure*, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be

entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." Unfortunately, these are not the kind of actions and thoughts we find in the majority of the world's people today.

To be continued
Sister Arlene Stamy

MOCCASINS

When I was young and still living at the Torreon Navajo Mission, I remember someone telling me I need to be able to walk one mile in my brother's moccasins before I can condemn or find fault with him. I remember thinking his shoes were too small, and how was that to help?! I guess I did not get the point.

It was not long before someone else told me I needed to walk three miles in my brother's moccasins before I judged him. Again I had to ask how that would help. Well, I was to look at what he was doing from his point of view. The walking in his moccasins was a way of saying that.

I soon forgot, because when I got older our Sunday school teacher told us we need to walk seven miles in our brother's moccasins before we can condemn them of what they are doing. Wow, the number of miles was increasing, and people were still telling me to wear my brother's moccasins.

I know we all have agreed to live following the guidelines of Matthew 18. Talk about the miles getting longer. Seventy times seven a day. That's a lot of walking for one day. I was also told if I had to figure up seventy times seven I had missed the point. Well, I figured up seventy times seven to see how that fits in one day. On the average we spend eight hours with any one person and that comes down to forgiving that person better than once a minute each day. That does not leave me any time to be all upset and get things going my way. Quite a challenge.

When I read Timothy 4:1-2 using everyday words, it tells me a lot about how to treat others. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; teach, correct, encourage with all

longsuffering and doctrine.”

I do not know anyone who has learned to do anything perfect the first time. We all need to be taught. As we practice what we have learned, we need correction at times. When we get it right, we need confirmation, a word of encouragement. Anything to know we are on the right track.

Teach, correct, encourage...any one of these actions without the other results in many uncomfortable feelings in any walk of life. All three take time and commitment to follow through. Above all, it is still the Holy Spirit who helps with the understanding and God who gives the increase. All we need is longsuffering so we can be used of God in the way He wants. There is nothing to it if the Holy Spirit is allowed to work through us.

I hope you have comfortable moccasins for me to wear.

Brother Roy Litfin

KENYA KNOTES

Greetings from all the Dunkards in Kenya to all the Dunkards in the United States of America in the precious name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We are now fifty-one tried and true members stronger because of recent baptisms. At the baptismal sites we sometimes had to wait momentarily for bathers and laundry workers to temporarily cease activity. The applicants at Makutano and Koplimai were so numerous (thirty-one) that as one was dunked, another was leaving the water while another then entered. Bwana Asifiwel! Praise God!

One part of testing applicants was to determine if they had proper marital status. Before detailing those questions, I am going to attempt to explain marriage practices of Kenya in the hope that I through the telling, will understand them better myself.

It appears that there are three types of marriages in Kenya. One is the traditional tribal marriage where cows are traded and various other rituals performed. Another is a Christian wedding that may be similar to our American practices. The third method I will call the assumed marriage. That is when two people come

together and state or not state that they are married and everyone assumes that they are indeed married. The assumed marriage is an option forced on many couples in Kenya because the other options, traditional and Christian require that a dowry be paid for the wife. Most couples desire a proper marriage but cannot pay the dowry required. In an assumed marriage, the dowry is postponed but not without consequences.

If a man has not paid the dowry for his wife he is then subject to the following customs. If his wife or children die, he may not bury them but they are taken for burial by the wife's family. When his daughter marries he may not charge a dowry for her. If he is a minister he is not allowed to perform a marriage ceremony. When a granddaughter marries in her virginity, the grandparents may also charge a dowry if the grandfather has paid the dowry for his wife.

I have been quietly teaching that it is not a sin to pay a dowry but that it is a sin to charge one. Biblically, dowries are depicted as displays of greed and deception. Christians should not charge for what they are freely given, a child.

It has been suggested that visiting American ministers might conduct group marriage ceremonies for those couples that have never been united properly. Still each couple will need to settle the dowry question before they take part in such a ceremony.

Another aspect of marriage in Kenya is that of polygamy. This at first was a very new problem to Americans. As we examine this issue, we find it has the same questions and problems as divorce and remarriage in America. When a Kenyan man tires of his first wife, he then simply finds another wife not bothering with divorce. The first wife is usually ignored and sometimes treated harshly. She may try to find another man to provide for her. If a Kenyan woman tires of her marriage, she might simply leave her husband for another either taking or not taking the children with her. Many children in Kenya are raised by someone other than their natural parents. Of course, it is difficult for a woman to leave a bad situation if a dowry has been paid for her.

Is this different than America? Many children are raised by someone other than their natural parents. Many couples are not living with the one with whom they first made a vow. The teaching

is the same. You must either live with your first spouse or live a single life. If your first spouse has another first partner you must live a single life. You have a responsibility to all children that you have fathered or conceived. It is adultery to marry someone who has had a first spouse.

One might think that it could be difficult to find people that are in an acceptable marital state to be church members. With these thoughts in mind we asked these five questions of applicants for baptism to determine acceptable marital status. Are you married now? Have you been married to anyone else in the past? Do you have children from past partners? Has your spouse been married to someone else in the past? Does your spouse have children from past partners? After sorting through answers to these questions we were pleasantly surprised to find only one person to deny baptism because of their marital status. The ministers or teachers at each church had been effective in their teaching. A majority of individuals were found in a proper marital state. Others simply left and a strong few took steps to correct their situation and were ready to make the difficult vow of remaining single for most likely the rest of their lives.

There is another curious custom in Kenya that a young person should not marry someone from within their local church. They should select a spouse from a sister church because it is like marrying your brother if you marry within your local church. If you desire a spouse from your home church you should first move to another town then you may begin courtship properly.

From the beginning, marriage has been a divine plan from God. It is an example of how the relationship between Christ and the church should be. But as always, man is ceaseless in devising ways to sin and call it holy. Fathers, teach your children of God's plan for marriage to keep themselves pure until then, to consider a mate prayerfully and then give them away freely as God has given to us.

God's Peace
Brother Tim Scofield

A message to the Sisters,

"With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me my statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word." Psalm 119:10-16.

Half of you have been baptized and half of you will be baptized in a couple of weeks. This is a very important step. You are saying that you believe the Word of God in truth. You are saying that you want to live according to God's Word. You are making a promise to God. You are also making a promise to the church. You are promising to live by God's Word as taught by the Dunkard Brethren Church. With your whole heart you have sought God. You will not forget His Word.

Now, Sisters, we have been studying God's Word together for a long time. We have been learning the beliefs of the Dunkard Brethren Church. Let me ask you this: Why are you wearing scarves? Where are your coverings? Where are the ribbons for your coverings? Why are you not dressing modestly, as you have been taught? Why do you not come to all the meetings? Why is there back biting between ourselves and toward our leaders? The list goes on and on.

"And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not." Ezekiel 33:31-32.

So, Sisters, you come here on Wednesdays. You go to church on Sundays. You listen to God's Word. You say you believe this is the truth and you want to live by God's truth. But, when you leave here you do as you want. You hear the words, but you do not do them. You are lying to me. You are lying to the church. You are lying

to God. You are not keeping your promise.

"And if ye call on the Father who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." I Peter 1:17-23.

We are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. It does not stop there. We are purified by obeying the truth through the Spirit. Once again, if we say we believe the truth and do not obey it we are lying. We all know the beliefs of our church. Why are we not obeying? We have some leaders in our women's group who are not obeying the teachings of God's Word and the church. It says in our polity book that all our leaders must observe and teach faithfully the beliefs of the church. This goes for our women leaders as well as our pastors. So I must say to our Sisters in leadership that they must decide to follow our teachings or they must step down.

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." I John 2:3-6.

How do we know if we are a child of God? We keep His commandments. A saying I really like is "If you are going to talk the talk, walk the walk." Or, as a dear brother in the Lord says, "Do not roll the dice, if you cannot pay the price." Do not say you love the Lord and believe His Word is true if you are not willing to pay the price

and walk the walk. God has put the church in authority over us. To not obey our church leaders or to cause division in our church through disobedience, even if you are a church leader, is a sin before God. Let us not stand before our God as a liar. We know where liars will spend eternity.

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” Revelation 22:14-15.

Dear Sisters, let us not be found liars before our Lord. It hurts me very much to say, but if you cannot keep your promise to God and to the church, then you should find a church where you can. There are a lot of churches around that have much easier beliefs. Do not stay in the Dunkard Brethren Church and cause division with your lies.

“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.” II Thessalonians 3:6.

My prayer is that we will respect God and respect His authority over us, in the church. May we be in unity as a church. Not being ashamed of following our Lord. No more scarves, small coverings, immodest dress, back biting. May we walk worthy of God, who has called us unto His kingdom and glory. (I Thessalonians 2:11-12)

From a Wednesday Women's Meeting
Love in Christ Jesus,
Sister Terry Scofield

Brothers,

Well, in all the last minute excitement, I accidentally packed my poem in a trunk, and it's in the back of the van somewhere. So, next month I will have two articles in here.

In Christ,
Brother William Scofield

I DON'T UNDERSTAND

While living in Kenya I have noticed that some people say things

backwards or all together different than in the United States of America. Here is a list of things I have heard people say here.

Kenya Way	Translation
it is finished	it is all gone
I will alight here	drop me off here
I am not getting you	I don't understand
boycow	cowboy
ballgum	gumball
help me sweet	give me candy
foot ball	soccer
my dry cells have expired	my batteries are dead
nappie	diaper
foolscap	full sized note book paper
pilot	driver
spaner	wrench
crusade	revival
ground nuts	peanuts
snap	photograph
timber	lumber
oil	shortening
petrol	gasoline
iron sheets	roofing tin
paraffin	kerosene
cooking gas	propane
screw nails	screws
compacts	cassette tapes
graph	checkers

Brother Matthew Scofield

TO KEEP OR NOT TO KEEP

This is the last article while still in Kenya this time. We have been busy the last couple of months with baptisms. We have fin-

ished the ministers' seminars and the ministers were to be teaching their people.

Therefore, they wanted us to do some baptizing before we left. We told them that we would not baptize just anyone. They would have to be tested to see if they understood the doctrine and were willing to keep it. So we designed a test to see if they understood. It consisted of fifteen questions. These were followed by personal instruction about the seriousness of a vow, submitting to the church, and being faithful until death.

Part of the reason for all this was the verse in Matthew (Matt. 23:15) "Woe unto you...for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." I had to think "Am I so desperate as this that I would baptize someone just to get them in, even though they may wither, or choke out when the doctrine gets hard?"

We had a good number who passed the test: two from Ortum, seven from Chepkorniswa, six from Kaptilama, five from Chesabet, twelve from Kaplami and nineteen from Makatano. We did baptizing in the churches, in groups of two churches at a time.

Now my question is this: Are you keeping the vows that you have made? The Bible says, "Better not to make a vow, than to vow and not pay." Are you still "willing to conform to the teaching of the Scripture as understood by the church?" What about Matthew 18. "Are you willing to be governed by this Scripture in the adjustment of difficulties?" "Are you still willingly renouncing the devil with ALL the sinful pleasures and practices of this world?" Remember, you said that you "covenant with God through Jesus Christ to be faithful unto death!"

Are you paying your vows or have you left your first love? If you are a member in name only, and are not functioning, you may be like an infected finger and need some help with cleaning and bandaging with the Word and encouragement of others. However, if that's undesirable to you: once a finger is too far infected, you just cut it off. Think about it! What of your vows? To keep or not to keep?

Yours in Christ,
Brother Jeremiah Johnson

DO THEY HEAR?

Here in Kenya, the women meet every Wednesday afternoon. They sew, or cook, or whatever, and fellowship. Then, when most have arrived, they have the formal meeting: singing, prayer, testimonies, and so forth. Last of all is the teachings. These are given by the missionary sisters.

Terry and I have taken turns with this task. We read from the Bible and talk about things relating to the women. We desire to see in them a real interest in what we are saying, acknowledging of failure in this area of their lives, and a will to improve. So often, it seems to me, they just sit there! I wonder, "Do they hear?" Are they thinking about the lesson or about what they will prepare for supper tonight? I have felt pretty discouraged at times. I have also felt more for the minister in his position, not just here, but at home.

Finally, I heard God say, "Do it for me." I thought, "Yes, Lord, I will do this because I know what I am saying is right and true, and it pleases You." It is the job of the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts.

Recently, I was thinking on this, when God spoke to me again. He said, "You feel so discouraged when you don't get a positive response to your teachings. But do you know how many times I have to speak to you before you hear? You are too busy to take time to really listen to Me." I was convicted.

How about you? Do you grieve your ministers and teachers with your lack of interest and lack of improvement in your life? Do they have to wonder if you hear? But even more important than them: Do you grieve God? Does He have to ask, "Do they hear?"

In Christ,
Sister Debra Johnson

GREETINGS FROM KENYA

We left our home on October 8, flying to Washington, D.C. on to Paris and into Nairobi, arriving there at 8:40 P.M. on October 9. The Lord blessed us with a good and safe flight for which we are thankful.

We stayed at the Mennonite guest house until October 13, when

we took the Scofields and Johnsons to the airport for their return home. The following day we started our eight hour drive to Makatano over the rough roads. We stopped at Nakuru and visited the Menonite Mission. Driving on we enjoyed the African scenery, saw zebra and giraffe and tried to avoid the reckless drivers on the road.

We were welcomed by our Christian friends here. We had services here at Makatano last Sunday and plan to go to Chesabet and Kaptilama churches next Sunday. The following Sunday we plan to go to Chepkorniswa and Ortum. Even though some members have fallen from grace, we can sense good spiritual growth here at the Makatano church. We want to thank Brother and Sister Scofield and Brother and Sister Johnson for their wonderful service and work while here in Kenya. We praise the Lord for the results that have been attained over the past year.

Our time has been spent so far seeking a better water supply for the natives and taking care of other business before our return home on November 6.

Pray for us and the church here in Kenya that His Will might be accomplished.

In Christian love,
Brother Paul and Sister Mary Stump

WHEN WE PRAY

There has been much written about prayer. When all is said the half will still not be told. Prayer is the greatest privilege ever granted to man, and probably the most neglected. It is great because it is to our Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, and soon coming King. It reaches beyond space, and around the world faster than light, or radio waves. There are many great prayers in the Bible. These prayers were uttered by David, Solomon, and others.

The prayer Jesus taught His disciples is the perfect outline for us to pray. It is the saints' prayer. It is not tailored for sinners. The sinners' prayer is "Lord be merciful to me a sinner." The sinner has not taken Jesus to be his Saviour. The sinner is not a child of the King, nor an heir with Christ. Therefore he cannot address God as

his Father. The sinner is not ready for God's kingdom to come. He cannot covenant with God to forgive his sins, until he forgives others.

This prayer is short but all inclusive. It may be divided into three parts. (1) Recognize, and honor the Commander in Chief, Jesus. It honors our Heavenly Father by inviting His kingdom to the earth, and by asking that His will to be done in us. (2) We consult Him for our needs spiritually, physically, and financially. (3) We honor Him as the great I-AM forever.

In part one. In our first address we begin by praising the Lamb of God. This is very important. Man was made to praise God. Praise is comely. David's slogan was "I will praise thee, praise shall be continually in my mouth." Please read Psalms 147-150. Everything of God's creation is called upon to praise God. I believe the elements praise God more than the people. Every blessing must be praised. I am now more thankful for one half of one eye, than I was for two good eyes. Praising God is more than a casual thank you. Anyone who takes praise for themselves is robbing God. Have not we had enough of man's names being exalted? Man's frail names come, and go, and are forgotten. God's name is the same now and forever. His ways change not.

Thy kingdom come. His kingdom is in the hearts of men. God's Holy Spirit must live and dwell in the hearts of men else their fruits will be sour. God must have a clean heart to put in His good, sweet, Holy Spirit. God will not put His clean, Holy Spirit in a dirty vessel. That is why we say, "Thy will be done IN earth." We are earthen vessels. His will is to be done IN our hearts else we are under the law and without justification. God's will, will be done IN earth as it is in Heaven, when all things are renovated and clean. What a glorious change! The challenge for us is for His will to be done within our utmost desires. When these features are genuine, our fruit will verify it. This marks Christian growth. God's will, will be done in earth as in Heaven when Satan is forever removed. OH!! What glorious things to ask for. What a glorious time to live for.

Part two. In this part, we pour out our daily needs spiritually, and physically. God is concerned with all our needs, both small and great, for ourselves and others, even our animals. This is an outline

of personal distresses, desires, and needs. These are many, far reaching, and important.

This is the place for heart searching confessions, and repentance. Here we contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints. We search, and contend for pure hearts, clean minds, and right spirits, as God sees us. David asks God to search his heart. David realized God knew how. David was to meet God's standards. Are you afraid to have God to search your heart and reveal what He finds there? There are no secrets hidden from God.

Have we forgiven all offenders? Have we made our offenses right? We expect to be forgiven, but that is on the condition of how we forgive our debtors. Time healed offenses are not acceptable with God nor trusted by man. Forgiving is giving up the right to hurt those who hurt you. In all this there will be temptations to justify ourselves, but remember God has the true record.

God allows these things to come before us to prove us. Victories bring blessings. We cannot have victory without a battle. Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil. Satan did not lead Him there. Christ was never led of the Devil. When we ask to not be led into temptation it means that He would not lead us into temptation that we cannot handle. He has promised not to do that, but with the temptation He will make a way of escape. What better can we ask for?

We are immediately instructed to PRAY, "deliver us from evil." Here is an opportunity to elaborate, and praise Christ for the soul-delivering, shed, blood of Jesus on the cross. This outline for our secret closet can easily consume a half hour, or much longer.

The last part of this Christ given prayer becomes more holy as we honor Him as the kingdom, power, and glory being His FOREVER. This is like entering the Holy of Holies. We acknowledge the power, and authority by which prayer is answered. This kingdom, power, and glory are truly thine. Our souls cry for it to come soon, and take us out of Satan's evil mess here on earth.

Then we seal it all by AMEN. "Amen," means: let it so be God. When we say, "Amen" it is a serious thought with which we have sealed ourselves.

May God bless all with His Holy anointing and may a hush of silence be over the whole earth.

Love to all,
Homer Mellott

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE

Romans 13:7, "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor."

Some time back we became curious about the origin of the Christian flag which is displayed in many churches. Our research, with the help of two individuals who answered our inquiries on this subject, provided us with some very interesting information which we would like to share and comment on.

One piece of information that we found to be of interest is that many religions and churches have their own flags. The Episcopal Church and the Roman Catholic Church appear to be the most prominent in this practice among the recognized Christian churches.

Perhaps the most interesting information we gleaned from our study was that there are two flags recognized as official Christian flags. The one group is known as the European flags. Apparently there is a variety of designs associated with this type of Christian flag. European flags originated in the flags carried by the Crusaders to the Holy Land.

The most common Christian flag displayed in American churches was designed in 1897 by Charles Carlton Overton, a Sunday School superintendent in New York state. There seems to be no known link between this flag and the American flag since many churches display both together.

We find the instructions for the display of the American and Christian flag in a worship service to be of great interest. "Beside a speaker, put the (American) flag **in the position of honor** on the person's right. At a religious service, the (American) flag should go to the right of the minister, priest or rabbi."

A pledge of allegiance is sometimes used in church services to

both the American and Christian flags. The pledge to the Christian flag reads, "I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands; one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love."

The American flag is symbolic of our nation and those who are elected to represent it. The Christian flag, is supposedly symbolic of the Kingdom of Christ and those who worship Him.

We find several difficulties with displaying either the so called Christian flag or the American flag in a church building (which we have traditionally called Meetinghouses). For a start, either the accepted position for the American flag, in the position of honor, must be ignored, which would designate a type of rebellion, or the honor for country would supersede the honor for God.

Secondly, displaying the Christian and American flag in a church building together is a reminder that church and state are bound together. While those who display both flags would usually deny this, the fact remains that most who display Christian and national flags believe and teach that it is not only right, but important, that Christians be politically active and willing to "take up the sword" for a national cause.

A third concern would be that the pledge to the Christian flag sounds very ecumenical. While it is probable that many who display the Christian flag would not repeat the pledge, the two would seem to go together.

If there is one teaching that is very clear in Holy Scripture it is that God will not share His honor with anyone or anything, much less allow something to be put above Him. How then are we to understand Romans 13:7? We believe this teaches very clearly that we are to respect those who have governmental authority over us. If we can't respect their actions we must still respect their office. We believe this means that we must also respect the flag which is symbolic of this authority. We can not worship the flag nor those it represents. Down through the ages of history many governmental authorities believed themselves to be gods. Today many put human government on the same plane as the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us give honor to whom honor is due and worship to whom

worship is due. Let us not try to join the two together.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

ON THANKSGIVING

Lord, we thank Thee for our blessin's
Since last Thanksgivin' day...
Though dusty was the summer,
And small the crop of hay...
Our son, he got the measles,
And our baby passed away...
Seems to make our hearts more grateful
For other blessin's down our way.

Yes, we thank Thee for our blessin's
Since last Thanksgiving day...
The rain that came this autumn
Soon caused the dust to lay...
Our son, he's doin' finely,
'Nother baby on the way...
Must've sent it here to heal
The hurt of one beneath the clay.

Well, we thank Thee for our blessin's
On this fine Thanksgivin' day...
Even thank Thee for the blessin's
In disguise, as some would say...
'Cause we know that all those trials
Sure do teach us, day by day,

Evermore to love and trust Thee
Since our last Thanksgivin' day.

Sister Arlene Stamy
P.O. Box 74
Hasty, CO 81044

GOSSIP REVISITED

"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." James 3:8.

We write these things today because we have both seen and experienced first hand the pain inflicted by an unruly tongue. Not only that, but in the past we, too, have been guilty of spreading this vile poison. It is no accident that yearly, in the February MONITOR, the article on GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL and BY MAIL, is repeated. Remember to read it carefully next time.

We write this because recently we heard a tid-bit about another of our congregations by a non-member. It was done in such a way as to mock our church and its work for Christ. The only way a non-member would have heard this news is from a member. The only way anyone hears news about us is FROM US. Let us covenant this day before God to STOP this ungodly GOSSIP before it gets started, and to keep our business to ourselves.

We must look ahead when gossip is present and anticipate the damage that could be done, both to our church and to ourselves. Then we must say, "It stops here. It will go no further." If you hear something bad about someone, particularly a fellow church member, remember: "It stops here. It will go no further." We are either a part of the solution, or we are a part of the problem.

I was talking to an Amishman many years ago concerning a local church problem (not our own) that had been written up in the newspaper. I asked him his opinion. He replied, "We have all we can do dealing with our own problems than to worry about someone else's." Good advice.

Let us ask God's help in dealing with our tongues. If we love our church, let us covenant with God and with each other that we

will keep our problems within our boundaries and not let them escape. Some will tell others our business "as a matter of prayer," but those outside our number who rise up and say, "I told you so," use the information to feed upon us. So before you speak, please think. Even to those of us who at one time thought that it was for the good of the church to share a piece of information, think again. If you hear something bad about so-and-so, do not tell anyone else about it. But if you hear about so-and-so more than once from different sources, then go to so-and-so, not someone else. Explain what you have heard (though not from whom), and express your concern. Remember that so-and-so does not owe you an explanation.

The first step to a clean tongue is a clean heart. Busybodies in other men's matters must get their hearts right. We can do a lot of good if our attitudes toward our fellow believers are good ones. May God help us to say, "Yay, yay, and nay, nay," and nothing more, when it comes to our earthly business.

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." James 3:13.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

MOTHER SHIPTON'S PROPHECY

This wonderful forecast in poetic form was written by Mother Shipton who died at Clifton, Yorkshire, England in 1449. Some of the things mentioned were scarcely even thought of for hundreds of years, and others have been fulfilled only recently.

A carriage without horses shall go,
Disaster filled the world with woe:
In London Primrose Hill shall be,
Its center hold a Bishop's See.
Around the world men's thots shall fly,
Quick as the twinkling of an eye.

And Waters shall great wonder do—
How strange, and yet it shall come true.
Then upside down the world shall be
And gold found at the root of tree;
Thro' towering hills proud men shall ride,
No horse or ass move by his side.

Beneath the water men shall walk;
Shall ride, shall sleep, and even talk;
And in the air men shall be seen,
In white, in black as well as green.
A great man then shall come and go,
For prophecy declares it so.

In water iron then shall float
As easy as a wooden boat.
Gold shall be found in stream or stone,
In land that is as yet unknown.
Water and fire shall wonders do,
And England shall admit a Jew.

The Jews that once were held in scorn,
Shall of a Christian then be born.
A house of glass shall come to pass
In England—but alas, alas.
A war will follow with the work,
Where dwells the pagan and the Turk.

The states will lock in fiercest strife
And seek to take each other's life;
When North shall thus divide the South
The eagle builds in lion's mouth.
Then tax and blood and cruel war

Shall come to every humble door.

Three times shall lovely, sunny France
Be led to play a bloody dance;
Before the people shall be free,
Three tyrant rulers shall she see;
Three rulers in succession be—
Each sprung from a different dynasty.

Then when the fiercest fight is done,
England and France shall be one.
The British olive next shall twine
In marriage with the German vine.
Men walk beneath and over streams—
Fulfilled shall be our strongest dreams.

All England's sons that plow the land
Shall oft be seen with Book in hand.
The poor shall now most wisdom know,
And water wind where corn doth grow;
Great houses stand in far-flung vale
All covered o'erwith snow and hail.

And now a word in uncouth rhyme,
Of what shall be in future time:
For in those wondrous far-off days
The women shall adopt a craze
To dress like men and trousers wear,
And cut off all their locks of hair.

They'll ride astride with brazen brow,
As witches do on broomsticks now.
Then love shall die and marriage cease,

And nations wane as babes decrease.
And wives shall fondle cats and dogs,
And men live much the same as hogs.

In nineteen hundred twenty six,
Build houses light of straw and sticks,
For then shall mighty wars be planned,
And fire and sword shall sweep the land.
But those who live the century through,
In fear and trembling this will do:

Flee to the mountains and the dens,
To bog and forest and wild fens—
For storms shall rage and oceans roar,
When Gabriel stands on sea and shore;
And as he blows his wondrous horn,
Old worlds shall die and new be born.

Selected by Brother James Kegerreis

MEETING NOTICES

November 1-8 - Revival Meeting, Mohlers, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

November 15 - Harvest Meeting, Plevna, Indiana

LOVEFEAST NOTICES

November 7 - Pleasant Home, California

November 8 - Lititz, Pennsylvania

November 8 - Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The address of Bro. Harley Rush has changed to: Millers Merry

Manor, 317 Blair Pike, Room 50, Peru, IN 46970. His telephone number is: 765-473-4919.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who have remembered us with prayers, visits, mail and so forth. It is deeply appreciated.

Brother Harley and Sister Iona Rush

THANK YOU

To our Church family and friends,

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all acts of kindness shown to us to make our 50th Wedding Anniversary such a special day!

The many cards were beautiful and the notes and letters inside were so special to us.

We had such a great time remembering all the happy times we spent with each of you.

May God bless everyone.

Our Love to All,

Brother Hayes and Sister Mary Reed

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1998

December 6 - A Generation That Knew Not the Lord - Judges 2:1-10.

1. How did seeing all the great works that God did for Israel affect the people's service to God?
2. Why did there arise another generation that knew not the Lord?

December 13 - A Legacy Forsaken - Judges 2:11-23.

1. Explain the phrase, "The hand of the Lord was against them for evil."
2. Why did not the Lord drive out the inhabitants of the land which Joshua left when he died?

December 20 - The Birth of Christ - Matthew 1:18-2:15.

1. Why was Joseph told to name the child Jesus?
2. Why were the wise men from the east seeking the King of the Jews?

December 27 - Forgiveness - Matthew 6:12-15, Matthew 18:21-35.

1. Why will God not forgive us if we refuse to forgive others?
2. Why must we forgive from our hearts?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1998

December 6 - True Safety - Psalm 91:1-16, Prov. 3:21-26.

1. Where can true safety be found?
2. What conditions must we meet in order to be given God's protection?

December 13 - Divinity of Christ - Luke 22:69-70, John 10:1-42.

1. What is the meaning of Divinity?
2. How important is it for us to believe in the Divinity of Christ?

December 20 - The Birth of Christ - Matt. 1:18-25, Matt. 2:1-11.

1. How important is it for us to believe in the virgin birth of Christ?
2. How is it that the Chief Priests and scribes knew where Christ would be born, but the wise men did not?

December 27 - The Touch of Christ - Matt. 8:1-4, 14-15, Mark 7:31-37.

1. Why does the touch of Christ have such power?
2. In what ways does Christ touch us today?

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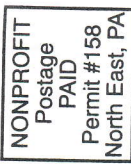
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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room For Thy holy Nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth, And in great humility.
O come to my heart Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee.

The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest
In the shade of the forest tree,
But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou Son of God, In the deserts of Galilee.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee.

Thou cam'st, O Lord, with the living word
Tat should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn, They bore Thee to Calvary.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee.

When heaven's arches shall ring and her choir shall sing
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying, "Yet there is room, There is room at my
side for thee!"
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, When Thou comest and callest for
me.

-Emily E. S. Elliott

THE COMMON BECOMES SPECIAL

The common objects of life receive little notice. Common, everyday things do not get our attention or praise. We take them for granted. They are there for our use. We do not give them much thought unless they are not where we expect them to be or they are broken. We miss them when they are not available, but otherwise we do not think much about them. They are unnoticed yet so important.

The most common coin is the penny. They are so common that we almost wish not to bother with them. Even so, if pennies are saved they can soon become dollars and be used to purchase some desired item. To see how the common penny can turn into a fortune try the following plan. Lay aside one penny the first day of a month, on the second day lay aside two pennies; on the third day lay aside four pennies, continue to double the number laid aside each day throughout the month. On the thirtieth day when all these pennies have accumulated you will have over ten million dollars. So a common penny added to other common pennies can add up to a significant amount.

Just as common pennies can make a fortune, God has used the common things of this life to His glory and honor. God uses the things that men often despise to accomplish His special purposes. This is evident in the sending of His Son to the Earth.

The birth of Jesus has many touches of the common. The Jews

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had been expecting their Messiah for hundreds of years. He came, but they did not recognize Him, because He did not come as a great, popular leader, as they had expected. There were no trappings of greatness or royalty that surrounded Him, so they rejected Jesus as their Messiah.

Rather than coming as a full-grown, military or political leader, He appeared as baby. He was not born in a palace in Jerusalem as might have been expected. He was born in a stable in the little town of Bethlehem. He was laid in a manger, rather than a prince's bed.

His mother was a descendant of David, but of a line that was not royal. She was a willing handmaiden for God's purposes. She, like Joseph, was of the common people. The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem had been made upon a donkey. The journey had not been a pleasure trip but one of necessity. The outward necessity was the emperor's decree, the real necessity was the fulfillment of God's prophetic decree.

The first to whom the birth was announced was not the King or the religious leaders of the land, but to the lowly shepherds. The shepherds were the first to see the babe who would grow up to be the Good Shepherd. Their worship indicated that this child had come for the benefit of all who would seek Him.

The shepherds became the first ministers of the Good News as they spoke of Whom they had seen. They were common people who could speak to other common people. This has always been the most successful method of sharing the gospel. Common people will more readily share the gospel with each other than will the powerful, the educated, the famous or the talented. A sincere heart will convey more truth than all the learned devices of men.

Jesus continued to be identified with the common people throughout His earthly ministry. He called fishermen, tax gatherers, and trouble makers to be His disciples. He quietly traveled through the land. He did not own land or a house. He usually walked or sailed in a small fishing boat. When he did ride it was upon a lowly donkey. Although He was a Heavenly King, their Messiah, He appeared as the poorest, meekest, and lowliest of all. He did not dispise the common people as the religious leaders of Israel did. He called the little children to come to Him, rather than

sending them away. He knew the leaders would reject Him, but the common people would respond. Here He could build His Church. It was not among the rich, powerful or educated, it was among the lowly, common people.

The common objects of life were made special when they were associated with Jesus. He would die upon a cross fashioned of common wood. His body would lie in a burial cave. He would show Himself to His disciples in a borrowed upper room. There was nothing fancy nor decorative that surrounded His life and ministry.

He brought a plain message, "Ye must be born again". He established a common faith for all who would accept and follow Him.

Will you hear Him calling you to accept that which is plain, common and simple? Will you believe that the Babe laid in Bethlehem's manger is the Son of God, who came to seek and to save that which was lost?

M.C.Cook

UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN

Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Once again we have come to that time of the year when the birth of Jesus Christ is emphasized throughout this nation and in many parts of the world. This can be seen in a positive light if we consider that many are drawn to think of the only real hope for mankind. The negative side of this is that most will put the major emphasis on the giving of gifts to one another. At the same time, many will be willing to share the prominent place Jesus Christ is said to have at this time of the year with another. In fact, Santa Claus seems to increasingly be taking the center stage in this celebration.

It is sad that comparatively few are really aware of the truth about the birth of Christ. The repetition of Scriptures such as our opening verse seems to take away from, rather than add to, the

significance of the Holy event.

Few take the time to stop and analyze what the Holy Scriptures are saying. Placing all the negatives in their perspective place, we desire to take a positive look at our topic.

Who is the "us" to whom a son is given? Initially the "us" was the nation of Israel. It is sad that even today the modern Jews await the fulfillment of this Scripture. Like their forefathers in the New Testament, they reject the Messiah that was given unto them in fulfillment of prophecy. The Scriptures make it clear that the "us" is not limited to the Jewish race but also includes the Gentiles. In one sense, this is all who are not Jews. This Son was given for all mankind. We believe we have cause for special rejoicing when we realize that the "us" also includes, and gives a special place to, the Church made up of converted Jews and Gentiles.

Who was this son that was given? While the prophecy given uses a small "s" to designate "son" we are fully persuaded that a capital "S" is part of the fulfillment. Very few would quarrel with this interpretation. Even Jewish scholars declare that this verse speaks of the coming Messiah. So called higher criticism and other modern theological schools have taken away the glorious truth given unto us by denying who was given. This refers to the Son of God who is also God the Son. The earthly name given Him was Jesus. He was the Christos (anointed). Thus, He was often referred to as Jesus Christ.

While there are many mysteries concerning the conception of Jesus Christ, we can be fully persuaded that it occurred in exactly the way that the Holy Scriptures reveal it. To take away what is commonly referred to as the "virgin birth" is to destroy the only hope for mankind.

Why was the son given? This question has at least two possible answers. First of all, a Son was given to fulfill prophecy. The greatest assurance that we have that the Bible is the Word of God is fulfilled prophecy. The vast majority of prophetic utterances in Holy Scripture are in reference to Jesus Christ. It would be impossible for a man to twist events to make many of the prophecies refer to him, as some have accused the Lord Jesus Christ of doing. This is especially true of the prophecies that related to His birth.

Secondly, a Son was given to redeem mankind from their sins. Jesus Christ is the propitiation for our sins. The sacrifice of animals was symbolic of the perfect sacrifice that was to come. Modern, liberal, theologians deny the need for such a sacrifice. They are at odds with God from the account of the birth of Christ to His sacrificial death and then deny the resurrection. While a Son was given at the birth of Jesus, a much greater gift was given on the cross. "And he is the propitiation for our sins: (the sins of the elect), and not ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2.

Whether or not you observe Christmas, take the time to thank God for the birth of His Son who came to be our Savior and Lord.

If this gift is not something you have personally, God is waiting to bestow it upon you, as the Holy Spirit brings conviction.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

DID SHE KNOW

When I think about the birth
Of our Savior on this earth,
And I think about His mother,
young and brave,
Tender heart so full of joy
As she rocked her baby boy,
Did she know He'd come to die
my soul to save?
Did she know He'd rise triumphant
o'er the grave?

Like all other mothers do
With a baby small and new,
I can see her touching arms,
and legs, and hands.

Tiny fingers, little toes,
Dimpled cheeks and button nose,
Could she see the cruel nailprints
in His hands?
Did she realize the greatness
of God's plans?

Singing softly, "rock-a-bye",
How it hurt to hear Him cry,
Day and night she gave her best
for her dear Son.
As He grew into a man,
And fulfilled salvation's plan,
Did she understand the victory
that He won?
Did she know how great the work
that He had done?

When I think about the birth
Of our Savior on this earth,
And of how his mother must have
loved her Son,
As upon the cross He died,
And His mother prayed and cried,
Did her mind turn back to years
when he was young?
Did she long to rock again
her newborn son?

-Sister Arlene Stamy
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Hasty, CO 81044

THE SINLESS SACRIFICE

Clang! Clang! Clang! The sound of a hammer echoed through the air while everyone who heard it cringed. With each sound of iron meeting iron, eyes closed, knees bowed, and ears tried to block out the noise. Thoughts flashed through their minds like blinking lights. *How could the soldiers be so cruel? Could they not see the love in His eyes? Were they so blind to think that they were doing the world a favor?* The impossible was happening. The unbelievable act was here.

And to think that He knew it was coming! He gave up His will for the will of His Father. "Not my will, but Thine be done!" He cried. He was willing... What's He saying? What's that? "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do!" He's asking forgiveness for these soldiers?! He's showing compassion in this fatal moment - and actually praying for them!

Another cry rings out above the storm. "It Is Finished!" Oh God, stop this. Let it not be true... Aahh! I see the light! My eyes are opened and I understand. He is dying for OUR sins...for MY sins. No more shall the High Priest offer sacrifices for our transgressions. Jesus has offered His blood as the perfect sinless sacrifice! He has paid the price!

The crowd is thinning now, and people are tearfully making their way back down the hill. But those who truly KNOW Him are still stuck in their positions. We chosen few who understand are taken aback as reality hits us. Our Savior is dead; but not forever! He lives on in our hearts, our souls; and encourages us to spread the word.

Oh Lord, we praise You. We lift up Your name on this rain-splattered hillside. Thunder crashes, and lightning strikes; but we are unmoved. You are worthy of all glory, deserving of our praise; may all honor and power be Yours, for Your kingdom is forever!

Your body is being lowered, but still we stand. The Romans throw the iron nails into the mud with disgust, then turn and walk away. I pick them up with care and lay them at the foot of the cross. Thank You Jesus!

Three days later, and the tomb is empty! Our wonderful Lord

and Savior is ALIVE! Death could not conquer You; Satan has NO power; for now YOU hold the keys to death, hell, and the grave: You will reign Forevermore! King of kings, and Lord of lords, Hallelujah, FOREVER, AMEN!!!

Sister Allison Dutter

KENYA NEWS

(Our Eighth Mission Trip)

We have just said our good-byes to our African Brethren and Sisters and Bro. Frank and Sis. Janet Shaffer. Farewell greetings were expressed with hugs, tears and words of encouragement. "We will miss you", "God bless you", "Pray for us", "We will pray for you", "Please come back", "Thank you for all you have done for us". These words have a tendency to draw us together and strengthen our love one to another.

Now Frank, Janet, Hosea, Florence and James are on their 460 kilometer drive over rough roads back to Kapenguria. We trust God will grant them safety along the way as they return to their homes.

As we are waiting here in Nairobi for our departure time to return to America, our minds seem to wander and reminisce over the past four years that we have been coming to Africa. What progress has been made? What have we accomplished? Shall we give up? Shall we continue on? Have we planted good seed that will bring forth a bountiful harvest? Have we been a true witness to the people? Is the church growing spiritually? Have we been a benefit to the natives here in Kenya? Have we met their needs? Has God's will been accomplished through our mission work here in Kenya?

As our mind ponders over these and many other questions that could be asked, we would like to elaborate on a few of them. Yes, we feel progress has been made. We can see spiritual growth in the church. We feel a greater development of trust among and between us. The teaching concerning honesty has been accepted and practiced by more natives. The seeds that have been sown are beginning to bring forth results. The doctrine of our church has been accepted and is being taught by the pastors. We feel God's

will is being accomplished. We see a better organized church service being conducted. The people kneel in prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer. They are singing out of Swahili song books and are reading their Bibles. We praise God for all these improvements.

Some have been taken to the hospital for treatment. On three different occasions during our short stay here this time we took people to the hospital for treatment. One brother was running from robbers at night and fell in a hole and broke his leg. Another elderly man was found dehydrated almost to the point of death. Others have been given pain medicine and had minor wounds dressed. There is so much need for medical assistance.

One of the great needs in Kenya is a good source of drinking water. The water is mostly fed from springs along the hillsides. As it runs down the hillsides, the cattle, goats and other animals walk through it and drink from it and it picks up other pollution such as human waste and so forth, till it gets to the river where they get their drinking water.

We tried to explain to the natives that we must tap into the sources of the water to get unpolluted water. We found the source, dug a hole for a reservoir, poured a cement wall, put a two inch pipe in it near the top, filled the hole with stones and covered it with maize stalks, banana leaves and dirt. At 2:10 P.M. on October 26 as we were finishing our project, we saw the first stream of water running through the pipe. Now the people can fill their containers with good clean spring water at the rate of about five gallons per minute. The cost was about \$35.00 and the people were so thankful for a good supply of water for that community. We have spotted a few other places where the same thing can be done. A larger water project is also being investigated to obtain good drinking water for the community.

We felt the churches were in need of decent benches to sit on during services. Some benches were just merely tree limbs laid across a few stones. Bro. Gilbert made four benches each for five of the churches. Sunday, October 25, we loaded eight of the seven foot benches on top of the van and journeyed to the Chesabet Church for services. The Kaptilama Church also came to Chesabet. The Lord blessed the land with a good soaking rain on Saturday

evening making the roads very slippery and muddy. When we would approach very bad places with deep ruts filled with water and mud, Mary would cover her face and pray while I would maneuver the van on, also asking God to help us through. (You talk to God more often in Kenya) At one point we had to retrieve our spare tire which was released as we drug through the mud.

On October 29, we met Bro. Frank and Sis. Janet Shaffer at the airport in Nairobi. After their two days traveling by air we immediately took our journey to Kapenguria arriving at about 7:30 P.M. We enjoyed our one week stay with them, getting them acquainted with their new home and surroundings.

On Saturday, October 31 we met for the second Lovefeast service held at Makutano. We enjoyed a wonderful service together with thirty nine surrounding the tables. Pray for the dear souls that they may fully understand the true meaning of these services and live true and faithful till the Lord calls them home.

We want to thank all those who have served some time in Kenya, Bro. and Sis. Dale Jamison, Bro. Rudy Shaffer, Bro. and Sis. Verling Wolfe, Bro. and Sis. Tim Scofield and family and Bro. and Sis. Jeremiah Johnson and family, also Bro. and Sis. Frank E. Shaffer who are now serving time there. Let us remember them in prayer that God may use them to His Glory.

In His service,
Brother and Sister Paul Stump

KENYA KNOTES

Dear Ndugu Hosea,

Greetings in Jesus' name from all the Brethren in the United States. Please give our greetings to Florence and Kenedy and Ishmeal and Josic and Gilbert and Alice and James and Imelda and Fred and all the Churches. You continue to be in our prayers and thoughts daily.

We continue to be busy after returning to the states. At the request of the African Mission Board we presented slide pictures and things used in Kenya to many of the churches in Pennsylvania,

Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado. Many people are very interested in what is happening in Kenya. They are concerned about your water and food. Is there any danger from people fighting? They want to know if Satan is very strong there. Did any witch doctors threaten to kill us? I was asked if people in Kenya work hard and what kind of work they do. I was asked how they carry all that water on their heads.

I told them how maize is just like corn, only less juicy and sweet but heavier. I told them that Kenyans eat all the maize. There is not any left to let cows or goats or sheep eat it. Many times people do not get enough maize either. In the United States we grow a lot of corn, but mostly cows, pigs, chickens and turkeys eat it. When traveling in Kansas I saw enough wheat piled on the ground to fill at least ten granaries like the one at Moi's Bridge. Not just the silos but the whole granary. It was piled on the ground because the harvest was good and there was nowhere else to put it. I believe people will eat most of the wheat. I explained to our brothers how many people boil their water to make sure it is safe. Terry could not show them how to put buckets on their heads. I told them that Kenyans were just like us; some work hard; some hardly work. We reported that we felt safe in Kenya. We heard no gunfire but we saw men with guns and helicopters.

We related how Kenyans are still very tribalistic. Even though they are all black, they can tell what tribe a man is from by his appearance, his speech or his name. Our United States brothers were not surprised to hear of Satan working. They did not expect to hear that one of the ministers was well known to tell fortunes, prophesy and place curses for pay. They were much encouraged to hear that there are many brothers and sisters not only willing to conform but understand the teaching of the scripture as understood by the church. They are glad to know that God has raised up those also who are able and eager to teach these principles as well.

While in Pennsylvania, William, Matthew and a friend, Kendra Miller, were going in a car a few miles from church to Dean Miller's house where the church was gathering for dinner. They had a crash with another car. All received various amounts of cuts and bruises but none of them were broken or killed. The car was severely

mangled and counted as scrap. Truly the hand of the Lord was around them that afternoon. He spared our children. I feel truly and triply blessed. All are healing well and the Lord's work continues! Hallelujah! Bwana Asifiwe Sona! Praise God! Amen! Amen!

Our plans are to set up house very close to the McClave, Colorado Church. I will be mostly working as a carpenter with at least one of the brothers there. I will not use a plane or a panga (machete) but I will use a hammer and saw and the sword of truth.

I encourage you to pray that the work of the Lord through the Dunkard Church will continue to grow in Kenya. Hold on tight to those things we learned together. May the Spirit of the Lord come down and continue to work in Kenya.

God's Peace,
Brother Tim Scofield

Greetings in the name of our Lord,

It is so nice to be home with friends and loved ones. We enjoyed having Kenya as our home for ten months. We greatly enjoyed the work and the people. A part of our heart will always be in Kenya. The Lord willing we will return someday. They are a people in much need of your love and support.

We want to thank each and everyone of you for your love and support during our stay in Kenya. Thank you so much for all the cards, telephone calls, letters and gifts. To know we were thought of and prayed for daily meant so much to us. We truly felt the hands of the saints lifting us before our Heavenly Father.

What a joy to daily work at serving our Lord and His people. We encourage you to remember the work in Kenya. Continue to pray daily for the people. Remember also in prayer the laborers who are there and that others be lead to go into the fields. So many blessings await you when you serve our Lord, whither in Kenya or at home. May these blessings be yours. God be with you.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Sister Terry Scofield

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT

Yes, I can't believe it! Where is Timothy Scofield? Jeremiah is nowhere to be seen. Matthew and William are out of my sight. Terry and Debra are vanished. Shall I ever meet them again? God knows. I have been left in a terrible situation. I am confused in a mixture of disbelief, fear and panic. My body is paralyzed in amazement and worries. With my mouth agape and my eyes wide open with tears of sorrow flowing down my cheeks. I wonder. Hosanna, my little sister is gone. What can I do? My heart is heavy, overloaded with a rock of grief and lamentation. I am covered by a cloud of pain and my humanity is being harassed by wiles of loneliness. Will I tolerate these conditions. I can't believe it.

My dearest brethren, my best friends, my beloved sisters and brothers, and my good parents, all of them have been banished. I have become an orphan chap. I am being disciplined by a terrible shock of their departure. My dear God, help me. They have left a very big wound in our hearts. The tenth of October 1998 is a day to be commemorated by us. It is a day that many drops of tears showered down my cheeks. We had just finished our supper now we were staring at our Brethren for the last minute. We shall never forget all that they did for us. They supported us in many ways, both spiritually and materially. They co-operated with us. We talked and ate together as brothers and sisters. Our sisters benefited a lot from Terry and Debra. Surely it is bitter and rather painful to miss such servants of God in Africa. If I may mean to talk much about these dear friends from America, I would need the whole booklet of the Bible Monitor to narrate all about them.

However we are praying for them and all that are concerned with the spreading of the Word of God in Africa. I believe one of these fine days I will visit America and try to do what Tim did in Africa. Jeremiah, I am remembering you so much in prayers, waiting patiently on that material day of the month of January. I hope to rejoice and dine with you once again. Debra and Terry may God bless you throughout your gestation periods. William and Matthew continue being strong in the Lord as we look forward to meeting again. Brother Tim Scofield may the Lord God, King of kings, bless you abundantly. May you be showered with drums of blessings

from our everlasting God. If power were in my hands, I would have made all efforts to ensure your continuous stay in Kenya. Although you've gone, we still need all of you back in Kenya to continue teaching and giving us much of the Spiritual food and enlighten us more about the Word of God.

May the Lord God of peace be with you all as we wait on His return.

THE SONG OF MUSUMBA

Friends are precious very precious
They are the best of all gifts that one can ever have.
Nothing material can take the place
Of the comradeship between you and I.

Genuine friendship has no jealousy nor pride
It has no envy and no lies
It has no room for loneliness or pain
Because it is based on love, based on love.

The charity of Tim and Jeremiah is wonderful
That of Terry and Debra is sweet.
The one of William and Matthew is interesting
For always has been and forever will be our guide.

Their light has shown in Africa
They have shown us the way to the Kingdom.
And challenge can never alter the course
Of goals we've all set for our lives.

Our motto as stated is vital
Scriptural in life and scriptural in practice.
Has always led to success to them that believe
Through the faith once delivered unto the Saints.

Our aim stands for unity and love

It binds us together and makes us one.

It gives us the strength to courageously go for the all

In the power of the Lord our God.

Brother James Musumba

Box 616

Kapenguria, Kenya

TRUST...IN WHO'S WISDOM?

Continued from November 1998 Bible Monitor

The Bible speaks of wisdom in approximately four hundred and forty different verses. Let's look at some of those verses to get a more detailed picture of how Christians should approach today's technology. In Proverbs 2:1-9, we get some important information about wisdom. We find in verse 6 that it's the Lord who gives wisdom, and then in verse 7 we find He gives it to the righteous. We find again in Exodus 31:3, Exodus 36:1, and II Chron. 9:23 that it is God who gives wisdom. **(Dan. 2:21) "And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:..."**

Egypt was a country of awesome accomplishments and technology. It took knowledge and wisdom to be able to build the pyramids, but the inventions of Egypt were not used to please God. They were used to build great temples in honor of their own gods. Over the course of time, Israel became caught in the worship of the idols of Egypt, and began to trust in Egypt rather than God. As a punishment, God took from Egypt all her power, and said that she would now be "the basest of kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations." The wisdom of Egypt only brought idolatry and sorrow to herself and to God's chosen people.

We dare not look to Egypt (the world) for our help or safety. All the world's technology will not help us if God is not with us. With our tongues we claim we trust God rather than the things of this world, but just consider being without medical care in an emergency. I think we all feel a twinge or two of fear at that thought.

Where is our trust? (Psa. 33:17-19) **"An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine."**

We humans like to look at the results of our knowledge and take the praise for it, as if we ourselves are strong, wise, trustworthy, self-sufficient creatures. (Isa. 10:13) *"For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man:"* But God tells us it's foolish to look to man and his inventions to solve our problems or deserve our trust. (Jer. 48:7) **"For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken:..."**

What are the results of Christians relying on the world's technology? (Isa. 30:1-3) *"Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin: That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion."* (Hosea 10:13) **"Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men."**

Our strength and safety come from God, and it's foolish to rely on anything else. (Psa. 108:12) *"Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man."* (I Cor. 2:5) **"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."**

EXAMPLES FROM GOD'S WORD

What we have established so far is that man lost his purity of wisdom when he learned the knowledge of evil in the Garden of Eden, thus we can not trust that the world's wisdom is righteous wisdom. True wisdom comes from the fear of the Lord, and in contrast, God considers the wisdom of this world as foolishness. Our trust must be in God rather than man.

In Genesis 6, the story of the flood, we find it says, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that *every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*" They were all busy thinking and imagining, but their thoughts were only evil. Were these people stupid and unlearned cave-men, as secular history would have us believe? It had not been long since creation. Surely their intellect would have greatly exceeded ours today, thousands of years down the path of sin.

Ken Ham has this to say, "Because we live in a technologically advanced culture, and because of the influence of evolutionary ideas, we tend to think that we are *better* than people before us. However, the *opposite* is true from a Biblical perspective. The first man and woman were perfect. They were created with a complex language and had perfect abilities in every area. Their descendants built musical instruments and cities (Genesis 4). Our brains have suffered from the changes resulting from six thousand years of the curse operating on the world. The great technology we have today is not an indication that we are more intelligent than people before us, but that we have benefited from the accumulation of knowledge."

God was so displeased with the evil thoughts of man in Noah's time, that He destroyed them with a flood. After the flood, God made a statement about man that still applies today. **(Gen. 8:21)** **"...for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth;..."**

In Genesis 11 we find the story of the tower of Babel. These people knew how to build cities, and their wisdom was so great that God said "...nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." (Gen. 11:6) He saw that their wisdom was not going to produce good. This concerned Him so much He chose to confound the language and scatter the people. They were trusting in and proud of their own wisdom, and the consequences were awesome. **(Isa. 47:10)** **"For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me."**

As we go through the Bible, we find situations that are hard for us to understand, because the Godly wisdom that was used looks like foolishness to us! When God says something that does not fit

our way of thinking, it's easy to reject His way to follow our own. But throughout the Bible, we find people who were willing to do it God's way.

After Daniel heard the new law that was made about not worshipping anyone besides King Darius, he continued praying with his window open toward Jerusalem "as he did aforetime". That seems unnecessary to us. After all, if he had only closed his window and prayed in secret he would not have been caught. Had not God given him a window that would shut for his protection? Was he using wisdom? All we can conclude is, yes, he was using God's wisdom rather than man's. God saved him from the lion's den, and as a result God was glorified.

When David was hiding from Saul in a cave, the opportunity arose for him to kill Saul. All he needed to do was step away from the wall and smite the king. The men who were with him thought this surely was the day the Lord had delivered Saul into David's hand. What a great chance to get rid of a big problem! Looking at it from man's viewpoint, it would be easy to believe that God had brought Saul to that particular cave for David's benefit. Yet, David, using God's wisdom rather than man's, realized that he was not to lift his hand against the king, for Saul was the Lord's anointed.

In another incident in David's life, we find all the men of Israel terrified of Goliath. Man's wisdom said that no one there was big enough to fight that giant. Man's wisdom said that it would be suicide to try. Yet, David, foolish in the eyes of the world but wise in the ways of God, knew that God could and would fight that battle for him.

We find an interesting story in Judges 20. I am not sure I really understand all that was going on here, but when the Israelites asked counsel of God, He told them to go fight against Benjamin. Twice they asked counsel, twice He said go, and twice they were defeated. It looks as if they were misunderstanding what God said. Then we find that once again they asked and this time God said, "Go, for I have delivered them into your hand." Were the first two times mistakes? I do not think we are told God's reasons for what happened in this story. Here again it looks as if we cannot use human reasoning to understand God's ways. (Isaiah 55:8-9) **"For my thoughts**

are not your thoughts, neither your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

To be continued

Sister Arlene Stamy

SPEAK THE TRUTH!

"And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the Lord, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjathjearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah:...And they fetched forth Urijah out of Egypt, and brought him unto Jehoiakim the King; who slew him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people." Jeremiah 26:20,23.

In Jeremiah's time the people did not want to hear the truth of God. Many of the Old Testament prophets were constantly in danger of losing their lives, likewise anyone quoting to others the Word of God. Times may change but the evils of man do not. Today is no different. People today do not want the truth. Our materialism has alienated us from the truth.

We read in the scriptures about all those who have died as a result of preaching and promoting the Gospel. John the Baptist told the King it was wrong to have his brother's wife. For this he lost his head. Stephen called the Pharisees stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears and was stoned to death, being seen of many, including Paul the Apostle. Indeed there are risks involved in speaking the truth, including the risk of being killed.

Our nation has lost its love for the truth. Early on we recognized the regime of communist Russia, who slaughtered the former rulers and millions more as well. China, communist since the late 1940's has killed millions of Christians, yet our government has recognized it, and invited its premier to Washington with great pomp.

Many things indicate unbelief in our government and in our country. Several years ago our president consulted astrologers (called "witches in the Old Testament). The President, we currently em-

ploy, keeps company with preachers of the "New Age", many of which are in the entertainment industry.

Hymns and Christmas carols cannot be sung in our schools. Bible reading is forbidden. Christians are no longer "politically correct." The "in thing" is to praise homosexuals who have "come out" (made their sin public), and to look favorably at those with multiple marriages.

Jeremiah told the people of Judah that Jerusalem would be destroyed and become desolate. Urijah, a follower of Jeremiah, also denounced the city and Judah for following other gods. He was hunted down and killed by the King and put in a common grave. But the King did not realize that you cannot stop the judgment of God by killing His prophets.

What kind of "prophets" are we if we are afraid to tell others about Jesus and the judgments of God. We must not hesitate to speak of God to others. Often, people nowadays initiate the conversation. Often, well-meaning people who belong to mainstream churches do not even realize that their religious freedoms are being taken away, because they are not taught and they do not bother to look into the Word. We must be wise as serpents as well as harmless as doves. We must know our enemies and speak out against their evil deeds, not just "love" them.

II Timothy 4:2 says, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." Isaiah 58:1 says, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." We can quote dozens of other scriptures to indicate the Christian's responsibility to the world. Urijah and Jeremiah both spoke the truth, one died, the other did not. In America today the chances are slim that a Christian would die for telling the truth. We need to prophesy against wrong doing, whatever it is and wherever it comes from.

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,

Or to defend his cause,

Maintain the honor of his word,

The glory of his cross.

Jesus, my God! I know his name,
His name is all my trust;
Nor will he put my soul to shame,
Nor let my hope be lost.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Rd.
Newmanstown, PA 17073

THE HOME

Psalm 78:1-8

We want to bring a message to you on "The Home." We feel the home is the first institution that God established.

We can go back to the Garden of Eden and there we find that He made man. He saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so He made the woman and brought her to man. He said that man should leave father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh. That was the institution of the home. It's in God's divine plan that the home should be established. Sad indeed today, the home seems to be nothing, but a broken-up mess of shambles.

It seems that today there are many divided homes, so many broken-up homes, and so many children are raised without parents or in one parent families. Why is it? It's been a neglect of mankind. The home has come to naught. The home does not mean much anymore. It seems as if the home is a place for the man to come home to get warm in the winter, and cooled off in the summer. It's a place for a man to come home to grumble, growl, and complain. The home should be an institution, established by God. The home is a place where children are raised and taught and where husband and wife dwell together in unity and love.

The Bible says that husbands should love their wives, even as Christ loved the Church. As they love their wives, and the children see the love shown, so they will see and understand how Christ loved the church. So we have a great responsibility to love our

wives. The wives also have a great responsibility to love their husbands, and be subject unto them.

We find back in the beginning, the home established, and God told man that he was to replenish the earth. We find it's a place where children are to be raised. So many homes today are started, but children that are born are placed in the hands of other people. There is no love there. That's what causes broken homes. It's a terrible condition when there is no love reigning in the home.

Love should be dominant in the home between husband and wife, and between parents and children. The children should respect their parents. We find today that so many times, the children do not respect their parents. What is the cause of it? It's not the children's fault, but the fault of the parents when they fail to teach their children. We bring our children to Sunday School, we take them to church, and we expect the teachers and preachers to teach and tell our children the ways they should go. The home is the place where children should be taught. Then, they should be brought to church to confirm the teachings in the home.

We find many times today, one of the biggest mistakes that people make, is that they get themselves into a situation where both parents have to go to work. The mother goes to work and puts her children out into the hands of baby-sitters. Then we wonder why the children do not do as their parents would like for them to do. We fail to realize that they are so tender in teaching, and they need to be taught when they are young.

The Song of Solomon says something like this, "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. If a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contempt." There should nothing come in our pathway to quench that love, whether it be "floods of waters", disappointments, or discouragements that might try to quench that love. It should not be so in the Christian's life. Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. The Bible says that we should not be bitter against them. We find as we establish the home, that we should have love one for the other.

We find in the Old Testament many times when the fathers had influence on their children. When a king did that which was evil in

the sight of the Lord, usually it was that way with his son, generation after generation. Once in a while, a king would do that which was good in the sight of God, and his son followed him in his footsteps. We have to remember that our children follow in our footsteps, and we need to lead by example. I encourage you fathers and mothers today, to lead by example. Remember your children are watching your steps. We have to be good examples to our children. We have to bring them up in a way that's pleasing in God's sight. A test in a man's Christianity is in his children.

We find so many times in the past generation, the church falling away. Why are we not holding our young people? Why do so many times parents seem to be staunch in their ways, and children do not seem to follow their pathway? It's the works of the devil. We have to overcome those things. We have duties and responsibilities that we must perform. People see us in our children. The Bible says that an elder should rule his house well, having his children under subjection unto him. That's not only for the elders, but for every father. It should be his responsibility to rule his family well. Our family gives us away and tells others what we live like when no one else is around. Many times people take their children to church on Sunday, but through the week they let them run wild and they do not teach them. We, as parents, have a great responsibility to teach these children. In the home, not in the schools, is where the teaching should come from us parents.

At home is where there is truly a Christian man. The husband, the man of God and teacher, is supposed to be the head of the house. The mothers also need to teach the children. The husband and father needs to walk with God and diligently teach his children at home. Too many times we find people who are so unconcerned. They say to let them go, they are young, and it does not matter. Let them have fun while they are young. Let them go out and sow their wild oats and when they are older they will come to the Lord. I find no place in the Scriptures that bears the thought of sowing wild oats. The Bible tells me that we will reap what we sow. We need to teach these children when they are young and tender and their minds are young and pliable. Too many times we wait to teach them until they are in their teenage years and then it's too late. The child's mind has been molded. The child's mind is molded before

they even go to school, when they are young. It's surprising how these children's minds can comprehend things. They learn very, very young.

Do not put it off. Do not wait until your children grow up, but teach them in the home. Teach them while they are young. I feel like one of the greatest mistakes today is, not teaching our children what the word "no" means. We live in a day an age when we hear a lot about child abuse. There are two ends of this torso of ours. One is to think with and the other is to sit on. The end we sit on is the end that needs correction sometimes. I see nothing the matter with correcting a child. The Bible says, "Spare the rod, and spoil the child." We need to correct the child and chastise him. I will admit that there is child abuse because fathers and mothers hate their children. They punish them, and beat them because they like to see them suffer. Many children are abused. There is a big difference between child abuse and the rod of correction. The problem is, we wait too long. Once they are teenagers and we try to correct with the rod, we run into difficulty.

Many times people who never raised any children are the people who tell others how to raise theirs. We need to use Biblical principles. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Proverbs 29:15.

The duty and responsibility of parents in the home in raising children is to teach, train, nurture, control, and love them.

Deuteronomy 6:7, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sitest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

We need to love our children, teach them to be sober-minded, and to love their husbands. This love needs to prevail in our homes between husband and wife and children, as well. Raising our children should be one of the most challenging, maturing, self-denying, time-consuming things we do in our home aside from studying the Word of God.

We realize as we raise a garden, that's the way we raise our children. When we raise a garden, we do not kick some dirt out of the way and throw some seeds down and forget about it. This makes a grand mess. The weeds take over. Too many parents raise their family this way. They do not do anything about it and all of a sudden wonder why their children do not turn out. When we plant our garden, we prepare the soil and carefully plant selected seed. We pick good seed, use proper fertilizer to produce, and cultivation. Weeds in our garden are like Satan coming into our children's lives. We take care of a garden and nurture it.

Why do we do so little? Why do we pray so little? We need to pray before they are born. We should be concerned and welcome ideas on how to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Hebrews 12:6, "For whom the Lord loveth he chaseneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." If we love our children we need to chasten them and correct them. I encourage young families who are beginning to raise your children, remember the teachings of the Bible. Don't be afraid to correct and teach right from wrong. We trust your home will be where love reigns, where God dwells, where children are raised to be men and women, and where parents love to look into the Word of God. The standards of the church will not be any higher than the standards of the homes that make up the church. We have to have our homes on high standards. Let's raise the standards of the home. Let's exhort and love one another. Then it is that our homes will flourish and God's name will be honored and glorified.

Selected Sermon of Brother Paul Stump
Contributed by the Stephen Blocher family.

COPY CATS

I feel sure all my readers have heard the expression, "COPY-CATS". As a child I attended a one room country school, from age eight to thirteen, where from all the surrounding families, children came for learning. All were taught by one teacher. Some children were not interested in learning. They would try to get their eyes on

their neighbors' work and copy the answers. They were called COPY-CATS. Well, the copy-cats are not all dead. A lot of them are still around. They are not all children. We are all copy-cats in many ways and things. A friend made the remark to me one time, "We are a part of all we meet." We are constantly copying other people. I took notice to my own life and sure enough I found it to be true, right at home in my own life. The sad part about it is that it is not all good things that we copy. It could be in our use of words, dirty jokes, or time wasted in many, unprofitable ways. It might be in smoking, drinking alcohol, immorality, idolatry and so forth.

Watching television has gotten to be very addictive to many. When parents put television in front of their children they put the sinful world right in their living room with all the filth and sin for their children to copy. I firmly believe that has to a great extent helped fill the prisons of our land with those who have committed murders and crime of all types.

There are many good things we can copy too. We should strive to do so by Bible reading, prayer, remembering the ill and helpless by visits, letters, greeting cards, telephone calls, and so forth. Have interesting and encouraging things to say and write, that are in agreement with God's Word. I find that those things brighten my own life. What we do to make others happy and better people will come back to us and brighten our days. As the sunshine reflected from the moon lights up what would be intense darkness at night. With that rebounding light we need not grope around in intense darkness.

Children copy their parents. "As the mother so is the daughter." It could have added, "as the father so is the son". There are so many mixed marriages these days that also weaken the children. Occasionally children do live a more wholesome Christian life than their parents, but that is seldom the case. It seems that the whole world is racing toward eternity at an awful speed, unprepared. Children imitate their parents in many ways—in appearance, actions, life styles, foods and drinks, work and also religion. Therefore, it is important to find the best gospel church possible and do our best to keep a pure heart and mind and do unto others as we would want others to do unto us. Satan has given us many bad things to copy

that look interesting and good. He even quotes scripture to give his plan a good face, but the veneer loses its glitter when payday comes round and we have found ourselves beyond help. The wise man, Solomon, said, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Ecc. 12:1.

Let us copy the good things from God's Word and live the nearest to His plan as we possibly can. Then we shall reap the benefits of old age and a home in Glory eternally. There we will join the Hallelujah chorus of the millions in the heavenly realm praising and thanking God and our earthly parents for our Godly life here on earth. Heaven will be worth more than we will ever suffer for Christ on earth. If we disobey God and Christian parents and end up with a fire and brimstone future, we will have lost it all. Those sinful, veneered pleasures will have lost their glitter.

We all need to beware what we copy, from whom we copy, how we copy, so that we copy-cats do not need to be sorry we copied.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
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Oakland, MD 21550

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE TO PRESIDING ELDERS

It is time to compile the Ministerial and Deacon lists for the February 1999 Bible Monitor. Any changes in these lists or other standing information for that issue should be sent to the Editor by January 10, 1999. It is necessary that all cooperate so this information can be complete and accurate. This information can be sent by regular mail or e-mail. The Editor's e-mail address is m.cook1@juno.com. Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

THANK YOU

Since suffering a stroke, it is difficult for me to get around very well. I have received a lot of cards, beautiful cards, letters and flowers. I do not know any way to express my thanks to all the Brethren and Sisters over the Brotherhood except through the Bible

Monitor.

I feel I am gaining a little strength each day. I thank our Heavenly Father for His watchful care over me. May God's Will be done.

In Christian love,
Sister Clara Gunderman

THANK YOU

I would like to say "A Special Thank You" to each one who remembered me on my 80th birthday. It was such a blessing to receive so many lovely cards, letters, and notes from all across the Brotherhood. You all helped to make "Becoming 80" more enjoyable than I ever thought it could be! Thank you so much, and God Bless you. I love you all. (I received one hundred twenty cards.)

Sister Arlene Flora

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1999

January 3 - Zacharias and the Angel - Luke 1:1-25.

1. What does it mean to be "Righteous before God"?
2. According to the angel, what was going to be the child's life purpose.

January 10-The Lord Exalts Mary and Mary Exalts the Lord-Luke 1:26-56

1. How can we find favour with God?
2. What did Mary mean, "My soul doth magnify the Lord"?

January 17 - The Birth of John The Baptist - Luke 1:57-80.

1. Why was it so important to name the child John?
2. Explain the praise, "To give knowledge of salvation unto His people..."

January 24 - The Birth of Jesus - Luke 2:1-24.

1. Why were the shepherds the only ones to receive Christ's birth announcement by the angels?
2. Explain the significance of the first born male under the law.

January 31 - Simeon and Anna Prophecy - Luke 2:25-52.

1. What was the reaction of Joseph and Mary to the words of Simeon?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1999

January 3 - Our Christian Calling - Matt. 22:1-14, I Cor. 1:23-32, Eph. 1:17-23.

1. Explain the difference between called and chosen.
2. Explain the meaning of the phrase, "That ye may know what is the hope of His calling."

January 10 - Our Profession-Ps. 78:32-34, Matt. 7:18-23, Titus 1:13-16.

1. How should the fruit of our life correspond to our profession?
2. How is it possible to profess knowing God and yet in works deny Him?

January 17 - Ambassadors - Pro. 13:14-17, II Cor. 5:17-21, Eph. 6:10-24.

1. To whom must an ambassador be faithful?
2. What is the ministry of an ambassador?

January 24 - Chosen Instruments-Jn. 15:14-17, I Cor. 1:27, Heb. 3:12-14

1. What determines whether or not we are a friend of God?
2. Name some of God's chosen instruments.

January 31 - The Touch of Christ - Matt. 8:1-4, 14-15, Mark 7:31-37.

1. Why was there healing power in the physical touch of Christ?
2. In what ways is the touch of Christ still available to us today?

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